

# Shaping your dissertation ideas

Turning inspiration  
into academic work

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# Choosing a subject

1. **What is your area of interest?** (What module, if any, is your idea coming from?)

*Astrology and healing*

2. **What is your particular interest in this area?**

*What is the role of healing that astrology plays in contemporary culture*

3. **More specifically?**

*Who uses and/or practises medical astrology?*

4. **Especially? What is the context ?**

*In the context of seeking health advice*

5. **Precisely? What is the exact subject matter of the question**

*Based on the clients of several London alternative healers*

6. **Draft Title**

*An investigation of the role played by medical astrology as perceived through the eyes of clients of two London alternative healers.*

# Feasibility

## **1. Is your project physically possible?**

*E.G. Do you need to travel to another country? – Time, distances and volume of work.*

## **2. Do you have, or can you develop rapidly, the skills required.**

*If you are working in archaeoastronomy do you know how to engage with a site – measurements and so on?*

## **3. Can you actually gain access to the material you need**

*If this is a target group, then do you have a gate keeper? If it is a text based dissertation can you gain access to the text?*

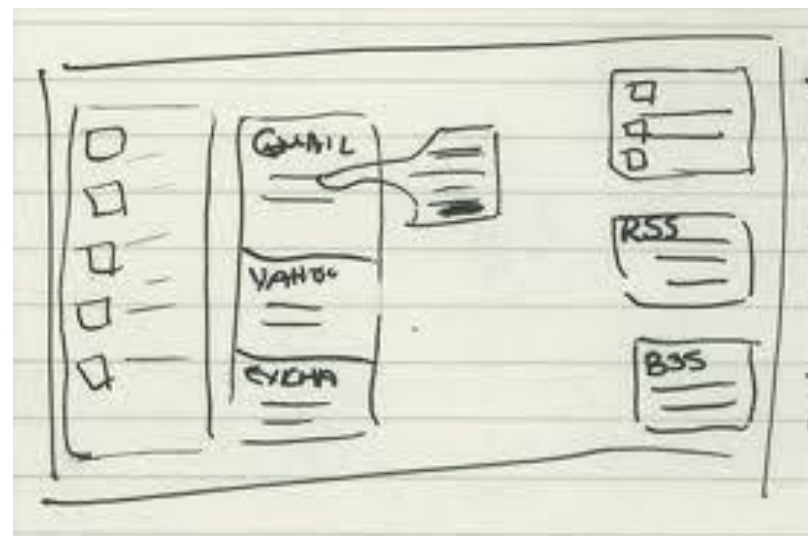
## **4. Can you find the necessary literature?**

*What literature is there? Are there problems in this area*

## **5. Are there any ethical problems?**

*If you are dealing with people you will need to deal with ethical issues – will this be a problem?*

Based on: Swetnam, Derek. *Writing Your Dissertation : How to Plan, Prepare and Present Successful Work*. 3rd ed. ed. Oxford: How to Books, 2000.p.5.



# Getting Organised:

## **1. What is your exact date of submission?**

## **2. What wordage is required?**

*15,000 words not including your bibliography or appendix.*

## **3. How must the work be presented?**

*Format such as margins, spacing – be aware of this now to save any surprises.*

## **4. Connecting up with your supervisor?**

*Link up with your supervisor, agree to when or how often you should Skype. Your supervisor will primarily want you to get on with your work but based on your submission date they can help you work out a timetable.*