**Surviving a graduate degree**

**Strategically Approaching Your Dissertation**

Consider working with research in mind.

If one has to write a thesis or a dissertation, it is strategic to keep all the research that was gathered for each academic assignment.

To do this, create an annotated bibliography to keep all of the sources in order. This working bibliography should have the source citations typed and arranged in alphabetical order by the authors’ last names. Each citation should be followed by an abstract paragraph that summarizes the source. Lastly, try including at least one quote from each source. **Doing this process will allow the writer to already have a references list, literature review section, and in-text citations.**

Here’s an example of a source citation, source abstract, and quotation in APA format:

Miller, C. & Carlin, N. (2010). Joel Osteen as cultural selfobject: Meeting the needs of the group self and its individual members in and from the largest church in America. *Pastoral Psychology 59*, 27-51.

Researchers Christine Miller and Nathan Carlin (2010) examine Joel Osteen’s success as pastor of one of the largest churches in America. Their research leans towards the theoretical framework from Heinz Kohut’s Self psychology, Sudhir Kakar’s work on cultural selfobjects, The authors prepare a close reading of one of Osteen’s sermons via the lens of Kohut’s and Kakar’s psychological criteria.

*Keywords*: Self psychology, cultural selfobject

“Osteen’s experience in marketing and management prepared him for making the strategic hires and crucial business decisions that led Lakewood to 41,000 new congregants in less than 9 years” (Miller & Carlin, 2010, p. 27).