**Carving Up Your Dissertation into Articles**

**Directions:**

1. Save a copy of your dissertation that you will use as your master copy where you keep track of what content is used and where.
2. Determine how much content you have that exists as singular, arguable ideas (or “nuggets” of ideas), where you make a unique contribution. In a typical dissertation, there might be 2-3 ideas worth mining, but could be many more. Read the dissertation again to search for places where you make a unique observation, identify a clear gap in a way that hasn’t previously been done, an especially strong piece of writing, etc.
3. Questions to identify ideas that could stand alone as articles (these ideas are not fully fleshed out arguments yet, but there is a chunk of text in the dissertation that could be used as a starting point):
   1. What gap in the literature are you trying to address with your dissertation? Is there more than one? Use one of these secondary gaps as a new starting point.
   2. What results are interesting tangents to your main dissertation focus? Choose one or more of these results to focus on for a new article
   3. Do you suggest a follow up study in your dissertation? Use some of the literature review portion and do the follow up study?
   4. Is your methodology innovative? How so? Target a journal that focuses on research methodologies in your field.
   5. Are your findings or literature review relevant to another audience (for example high school science teachers instead of scientists or higher education in general)? Use the parts of your dissertation and rewrite portions for another audience.
   6. Is your research interdisciplinary? If your dissertation is anthropology, but also touches on gender studies, identify the gender studies portions of the project and build an article out from that angle.
4. List these ideas below in the chart to determine what you need to do to make each of these ideas standalone as a scholarly article. Each idea/nugget from your dissertation is assigned a color. For example, your first article is yellow. Every time you take something directly from the dissertation (say, four paragraphs on page 63 or all of Chapter Two) HIGHLIGHT IT in the color for that project. Tracking what parts of your dissertation you are moving to an article in the color assigned to those projects will help you 1) avoid plagiarizing yourself by using the same content twice and 2) know where that content was used.

**Dissertation Article Tracking Chart**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Idea/Arguable “nugget” of an idea (write this out as an argument or a claim if at all possible; some projects might just be listed as interesting ideas until you do more reading)** | **Target journals 1 and 2 (the target and a backup)**  (To identify outlets, look at journals you cited often in your dissertation or search by your topic to see who is publishing in this area; alternatively, ask your advisor about outlets) | **Model journal articles from target journals (use these to establish a structure for your own article)** | **Where does this content for this article currently exist in the dissertation? (pages 2-4, section 1 of Chapter Three, etc.)** | **What needs to be added to this content to make it an article? (for example, another study, more background, etc.)** |
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