



# Meandering Press

## Call for Papers for Book on Thesis Writing

**Working Title:** *Dissed! The Real Deal on Writing  
Dissertations & Theses, from Actual Survivors*

### ••• What We're Looking For

Meandering Press is presently seeking anecdotes and essays on the process of writing a thesis or dissertation. We're looking for humor mixed with imagination and insight answering such questions as:

- How did you imagine yourself into writing and into your topic?
- How did you cope with getting the project done?
- How did you motivate yourself?
- What truths did you discover about yourself or the writing process?
- What bizarre habits, tactics, or strategies did you employ to finish?
- How did you wrangle your committee?
- What strange but true happenings did you learn not to question?
- What advice (other than don't do it!) would you share with someone about to embark on the process?
- What didn't you know that you wish you'd known before you began?
- What was the most difficult aspect of writing the work, and what was the most satisfying?
- Where, if anywhere other than your institution's shelves, your mother's coffee table, or propped underneath your old chair to even out the missing leg, has your dissertation landed?
- What was your topic and why did it seem important? Does it still today?

Wryness works. Wit works. As does satire, and even irony. However, we're not interested in abject bitterness – if the only thing that you gained from writing your thesis was a burning hatred of all things academic, we don't want to hear a diatribe. We're looking to engage and entertain those folks about to embark on this process, giving them warnings of the shoals ahead while letting them know that the channel is passable.

Anecdotes and essays should be written in first person. You can be erudite if you want, but mean it. Bad puns will be duly appreciated. Please consider any use of expletives or descriptions of prurient behavior carefully; we want moms to feel good about buying this book for their favorite struggling graduate student.

Writing a thesis or dissertation is a unique journey, most often without a guidebook and frequently seemingly without a translator. This book will both celebrate that process and acknowledge its challenges.

## ••• Specific Needs

### Anecdotes

A one-liner to three paragraphs that distills a conundrum you faced and your solution, or a quip that you used to keep the dissertation beasts at bay. Fast and funny, imaginative and unique.

Send these via email only to **thecrew@meanderingpress.com**.

Please include:

- Your full name as you'd like to see it in print
- Your contact information
- What university you attended
- The degree you attained and the year the degree was conferred
- Your field of study
- Title of your thesis/dissertation

We'll make a genuine effort to acknowledge everything that's been sent in, but we can't promise that we'll be able to if response is heavy. If we don't get back to you, know that your efforts are appreciated even if they're not a good fit for this publication. Please don't call us or email us mercilessly! It won't help and will make us really irritable. If your anecdote is accepted we'll get back to you with a release form and other information. We reserve the right to edit all copy that is included in the book.

### Essays

One to ten pages sent as an **MS Word** attachment via email only, filled with your deathless prose. Use any font you'd like, as long as it won't give anyone a headache to read it. Illustrate if you feel so inspired. If you're writing a longer piece, you can send an abstract first.

Please include:

- Your full name as you'd like to see it in print
- Your contact information
- What university you attended
- The degree you attained and the year the degree was conferred
- Your field of study
- Title of your thesis/dissertation

Send these via email only to **thecrew@meanderingpress.com**.

Again, we'll try to respond to everyone if we can. Again, please don't call and pester us or email us repeatedly. If we're interested in seeing the full article, we'll get back to you with a request for the full enchilada and the accompanying legalese. We reserve the right to edit all copy that is included in the book.

### Due Date

All anecdotes and essay abstracts must be received via email by **5 pm, August 15, 2006**. Anything that comes in after that will be discarded, unless accompanied by a fairly large check. Or brownies. With walnuts.

## ••• What You'll Receive

### All Published Authors

If your work is included in the book, you'll get all sorts of cool stuff, including:

- A modicum of fame, including being highlighted on our website
- A publishing credit
- 1 free copy of the book (Already a better deal than the thesis itself.)
- Kudos from your friends
- A great deal on additional copies (TBD when retail price is determined) so you can send 'em to those friends and gloat
- The knowledge that the stupid paper actually helped you accomplish something

## Winner

### A Shot at Getting Your Book Published

For the writer of the most moving, unexpected, funny, and/or inspiring essay or anecdote, Meandering Press will offer a complete editorial analysis of your book manuscript. If it looks as though it will fit into Meandering Press' editorial constructs and goals, we'll offer you a publishing contract. With that, you get a book deal, and membership as an Imaginal Institute Fellow, with online publishing, teaching, and presentation opportunities. Oh, the humanity!

### Selection Process

Our esteemed and nepotistic awards committee will chose their favorite anecdote or essays. We both love them and are slightly frightened of them, so their say, however logical or not, is final, and like proclamations from royalty, beyond contestation.

## ••• About Us

A small, independent press dedicated to producing print, electronic, and media works that celebrate and challenge imagination, Meandering Press is the publishing arm of The Imaginal Institute.

In turn, The Imaginal Institute is a conduit for imagining: celebrating and supporting the leap between ideas and action through dialogue, lifelong learning, and creative expression. We offer a variety of programming and services, including events, online learning, and consulting.

[www.meanderingpress.com](http://www.meanderingpress.com)

[www.imaginalinstitute.com](http://www.imaginalinstitute.com)

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