



## Advice from a Self-Study Scholar

### Writing Backward from the Results

Self-study scholars using qualitative methods do not write in a straight line. They design a study, write a proposal, review studies on the topic, and plan a way to answer their focused research question. However, when they draft the results section, they begin to revise the methods section to reflect what they actually did and the changes they made to help them address their inquiry. Likewise they revise the literature review to delete any article that is no longer relevant to the direction the study actually took and to add any that are related to unexpected findings. As they go, they note on the side any implications, should-have-dones, should-do-nexts, and so-whats that rise to attention, thereby forming the conclusion. Repeating such forays from results to literature to conclusion and back as needed, they craft a compelling narrative. The very last step is to rewrite the introduction, drawing the reader onto a clear path through the argument to what now seems like a logical conclusion.

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