

TAPESCRIPT

(T = Tracey; A = Andrei)

T: Hi Andrei. How're you getting on with your research project?

A: I've just started, and it's giving me a headache. I really thought it'd be nothing like this, but then ... I suppose it'll probably get easier, ... I hope.

T: Getting started is always the worst part for me. I always hate getting down to it.

A: Well, yeah, it can be a real problem, but it doesn't have to be.

T: So ... you're doing something ... on the relationship between the public and systems such as roads and other transport in cities?

A: Yes, that's it. And you're looking at ... ?

T: Cityscapes and their impact on people's moods.

A: Ah, yes.

T: It's given me lots of headaches too. What's your problem?

A: Oh, everything basically. I'm just trying to get my head around everything and don't know where to start.

T: Mmm ... I'm in the middle of looking at data analysis, and I'm having a bit of a struggle myself at the moment.

A: You're at the data stage. Oh right. You're quite far on then.

T: Yeah. I am ...

A: Could you tell me what your experiences have been as you're further along than me? It might make me feel a bit better.

T: Yeah sure. Looking back I don't know how I got to this stage, but mm ... I found it fairly straightforward getting started. I was expecting it to be much harder, but it all came together rather quickly.

A: That's good to hear. So that's promising. But can you tell me about your experience say of mmm ... coming up with the research question?

T: I thought I'd have difficulty turning my ideas into a research question, but it wasn't as bad as I thought. In fact, I found it relatively painless.

A: OK ... I might ask for your help on that then. What about the literature review?

T: The literature review? That I found really took up a lot of time. But I have to admit, I actually like digging into things and getting to the bottom of problems, so part of that was me.

A: Yes, I agree it can be fun. I'm reading a lot to try and get myself to frame my research question, and I'm really getting into the literature.

T: Well, the thing I was very glad to get out of the way was writing the research proposal. I was exhausted after that, because it's important to make sure the research proposal's really clear on the focus of your research. It's not easy summarising everything and bringing it together.

A: And what about designing the methods?

T: That was really easy to do – I enjoy analysing systems and putting them together, so I think I sorted the methods design out really quickly. But what I found really agonising was writing the aims and objectives. That was probably particularly hard to deal with.

A: Yeah ... they aren't easy.

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T: Is all of this any help Andrei? A: Oh yes. One of the problems is that it's OK to see things written on paper but it's the thinking behind it.

T: Yes, of course. It is.

A: Yeah. I appreciate it. My spoken English is not a problem, I think, but I've not done much writing and I'm going to find that bit difficult.

T: Well, you can get help you know.

A: Yeah? Mm, do you think I need a private tutor?

T: Oh no, that's not necessary, I'm sure. I know there's language support in the university if you are not a full-time student; you just need to contact the Language Centre.

A: OK, but there's likely to be a fee involved.

T: Mmm well you can get help through the main library. It's not just for lending books you know.

A: Really? I never thought of that.

T: It's so easy to get isolated and not know everything that's available.