

The AMS Graduate Student Blog

Talk that matters to mathematicians.

From "Things You Should Do Before Your Last Year" ...

Write stuff up. Write up background, write down little ideas and bits of progress you make. It's difficult to imagine that these trivial, inconsequential bits will make it to your dissertation. But recreating a week's/month's worth of ideas is way more time-consuming than just writing them down now. Or better yet, TeX it up.



From "The Glory of Starting Over" ...

What I would recommend is not being too narrowly focused, but finding a few things that really interest you and develop different skillsets. Make sure you can do some things that are abstract, but also quantitative/programming oriented things, because this shows that you can attack a problem from multiple angles. In my experience, these two sides also serve as nice vacations from each other, which can be important when you start to work hard on research.



From "Student Seminar" ...

A talk can be too short if not enough material is introduced to make it interesting, but in research level talks, the last third of the talk (approximately) is usually very technical and usually only accessible to experts in the field. I will avoid going into details that are not of general interest and I plan to present more ideas than theorems. The most important thing when giving any talk is to know your audience.

