

# Survival advices for a joyful thesis

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The latest updated version will be available at <https://idsc-frazzoli.github.io/documents>.

## Introduction

The aim of this document is to provide general advices for your project. It is still unclear whether there is a causal relation between following these advices and a successful thesis or not. For now we have only observed statistical high correlation.

## Use your slack channel!

The more you keep your supervisors in the loop the faster you get feedbacks. We encourage to share your results on slack: videos, plots, gif, and partial reports are highly appreciated.

## Take a “how to” Latex

We assume you know how to use Latex, and all your reports will be written with it on overleaf. Use the IDSC template.

Continuously writing on the report helps you in the following:

- We establish common notation which makes future meetings more efficient.
- Supervisors could have read what you thought about this week and gave you feedback.
- You do not forget things that might be more easily forgotten otherwise.
- What you write doesn't have to be ready for final revision. Ideas, doubts, and speculations might be helpful.

## Take a “how to” present course

- Think about what is the story you want to tell.
- Slides should be clean, avoid overcluttered ones.
- Do not get lost in explaining minor details, the report is the right space for those.
- Leave the most impressive result as last thing.
- Multimedia content is encouraged.
- Many others general advices can be found online.

## Miniproject presentation (~4/5 weeks in)

After ~1 month from the start of the thesis hold a presentation during the group meetings. This is an occasion for you to mainly:

- Show how you have understood the project you are tackling.
- Discuss with the broader audience of the group the thesis strategy.
- Ask for steering the project in a different direction (e.g. “So far I have done this but I would love to do more coding/theory/math/hardware/lying in the sun”)
- Ask the day before the presentation your supervisor to review the slides, this can be considered a training step for the final presentation.

On average plan for 10 minutes. There will be a Q&A session afterwards.

### Intermediate project presentations (2-4 months in)

Roughly midway through your project, you are encouraged to give a presentation to the lab members. The goal of this presentation is to obtain formal feedback from the lab.

### FAQ

*Q: I am one or two months in and I feel completely lost...*

**A:** Do not panic, it can happen more often than you might think. Express your doubts to your supervisor