

# Introduction to Research

Grad Skills

10/22/2025

# Summary: What Research Means to Graduate Students



Research is viewed as a **dynamic, creative, and intellectually stimulating process**.  
Students describe it as:



**Exciting, fun, and fulfilling** — an opportunity to explore the unknown.



**A way to learn and create** — testing ideas, synthesizing information, and developing new knowledge.



**Challenging yet rewarding** — both a source of *pain and joy*, depending on results.



**Purpose-driven** — proving one's expertise and contributing meaningfully to society or policy.



**Exploratory** — discovering, experimenting, and expanding the boundaries of understanding.



**“Research is seeing what everybody else has seen  
and thinking what nobody else has thought.”**

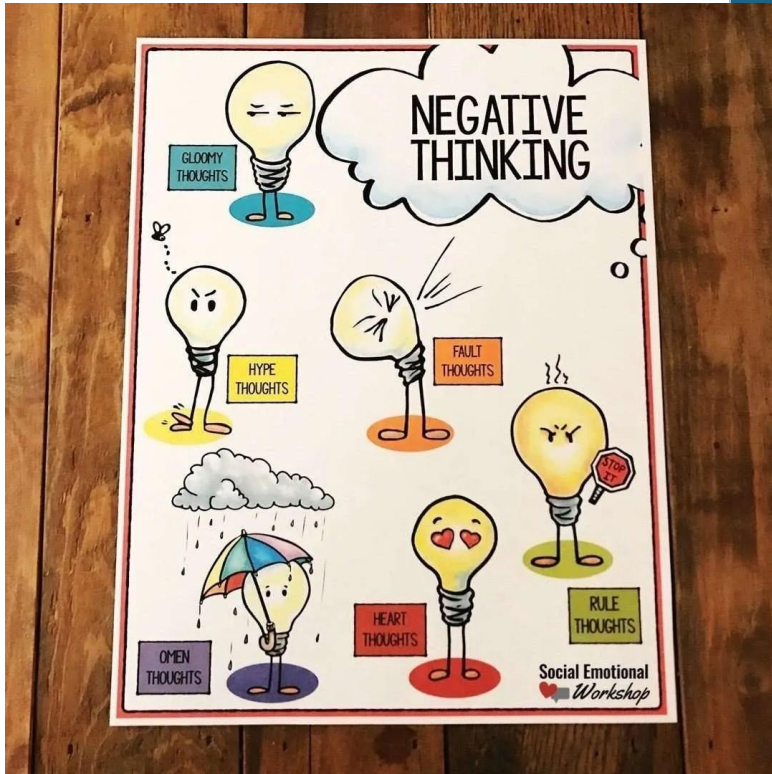
*- Albert Szent-Györgyi*



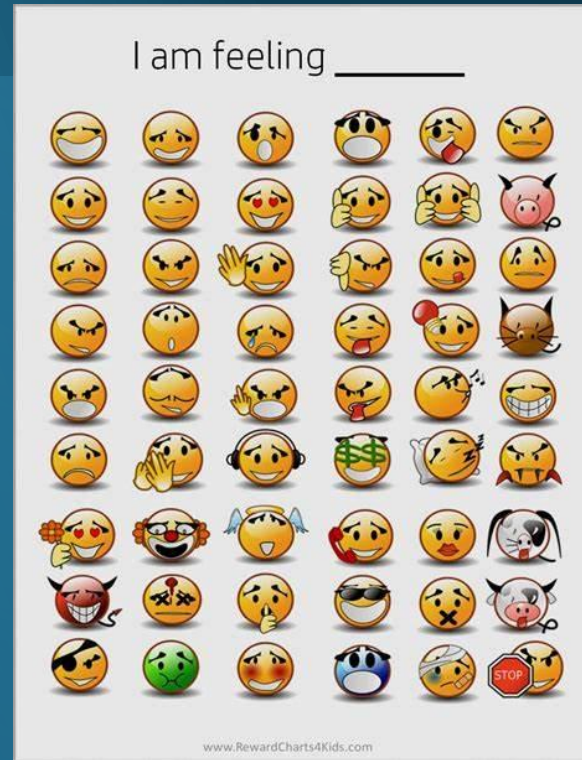
“the systematic investigation into and study of materials and sources in order to establish facts and reach new conclusions.”

- *Oxford Dictionary*





### \*Helping Children Challenge Negative Thinking - Social Emotional Workshop



\*<https://www.bing.com/>



# Summary: Perspectives on the Advisor–Advisee Relationship

Graduate students view the advisor–advisee relationship as **foundational to academic success and personal growth**.  
Key themes include:

**Communication and Clarity:**  
Maintaining open, regular discussions about **deadlines, goals, and expectations** is seen as essential.

**Guidance and Mentorship:**  
Advisors are valued for **accelerating learning**, providing **direction** when **students face blockers**, and helping them navigate unfamiliar challenges.

**Trust and Mutual Benefit:**  
The relationship should be **built on trust, respect, and shared interests**, benefiting both advisor and student.

**Balance and Support:**  
While advisors push students to stay productive, excessive pressure can make research feel like **punishment**.  
Supportive mentorship helps sustain motivation.

**Foundational Impact:**  
A strong advisor–advisee connection forms the **basis for future success** — without it, research quality and personal well-being both suffer.

# Advisor Advisee Relationship – Building a Productive Partnership

To reflect on how advisors and graduate students can foster trust, communication, and mutual growth.



## **Core Principles**

- **Shared Vision:** Clarify research goals, timelines, and expectations early.
- **Open Communication:** Schedule regular meetings and share honest feedback.
- **Respect & Boundaries:** Acknowledge personal limits and professional differences.
- **Constructive Feedback:** Offer and receive input with openness and intent to improve.
- **Independence with Guidance:** Balance autonomy with mentorship support.

## Some interesting TedTalks

[Six Reasons Why Research is Cool: Quique Bassat at TEDxBarcelonaChange \(youtube.com\)](#)

[Inside the Mind of a Master Procrastinator | Tim Urban | TED \(youtube.com\)](#)

[How to sound smart in your TEDx Talk | Will Stephen | TEDxNewYork \(youtube.com\)](#)