

Thoughts on Graduate Student Research

01. Overview

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The Goals of this Series



1. Provide my insight from
 - My own time as a graduate student
 - Advising graduate students
 - Working with mentors and peers
2. Provide a brief guide that
 - Can be referred to through your time as a graduate student
 - Can be updated from your input
3. Help you set goals and milestones
4. Provide insight into the research side of graduate school

People have been doing this for a while



- Socrates, Plato
- Da Vinci
- Church, Horton, Parshall
- Who do you see as influential in the field of (water) science?



Ralph Parshall & colleague , Cameron Pass 1941

My Views of the Goals of Grad School



- It does vary some between a MS and a PhD program
- MS program
 1. Advance existing skills, and learn new skills
 - Data wrangling, preparing results, writing, presenting results
 2. The M.S. degree on a curriculum vitae (more than a résumé)
 3. Advance research
 - Learn how to ask research questions
- PhD program
 - Progress from points stated above, including independent learning
 - The Philosophy part of PhD – the “big” thinking
 - Publish papers

Pondering



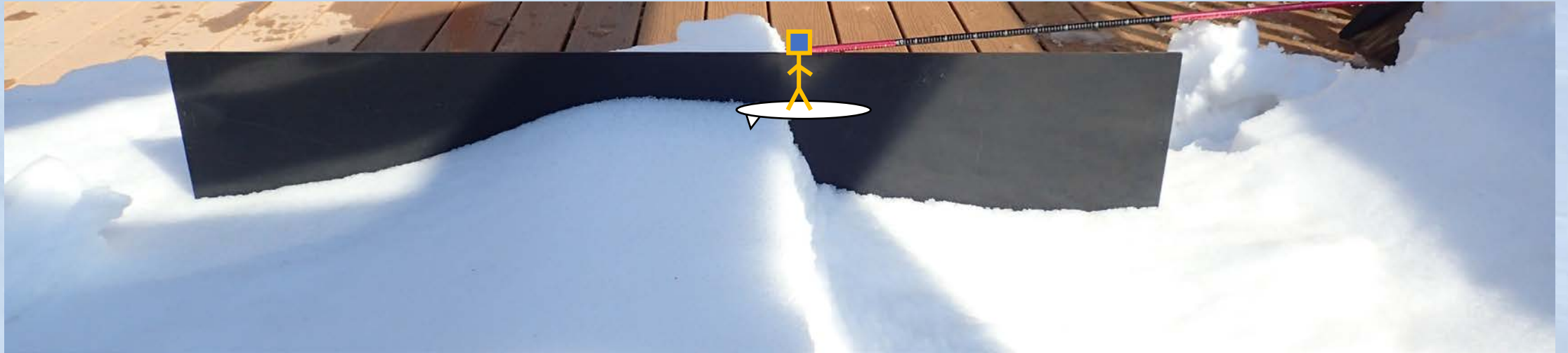
- Research means an “open-ended” problem
 - Solution not known yet (it’s not in the back of a textbook)
- Make observations – keep your eyes open



Pondering II



- Opportunities arise
- I have only regretted saying “no”





Ask
Questions