Questions for Moving from Research to Writing

How many sets of data/ideas/main points do you have?

Do you have any competing data/ideas/main points?

What are you reluctant to discard?

Are all of the bits of research you currently have equally interesting to you?

What do you feel you have to write about, and why do you have to write about that?

[see reverse side]
Are you a “forest” or a “trees” person? Do you start with the big idea or prefer the details? If you were to start with the “forest”/big picture with this project, what would that look like? If you were to start with the “trees”/a particular idea or finding or question, what would that look like?

Do you feel you have to figure it all out before you write? Is that possible with the information at hand? What would happen if:

- You wrote to discover your ideas
- You charted/mapped/outlined your ideas
- You changed your mind/emphasis along the way

What do other dissertations/theses/papers look like in your field? What can models tell you about your target? Where can you find them?

What is one thing you can start writing now, with the research you’ve done? What is one thing that you need to investigate further in order to write about it?

Does your topic still interest you? Are there ways to make it more interesting to you?