“This will take longer than I thought” [Benjy Mercer-Golden]

The scope of the paper that I envision before I start writing it, I think as a rule of thumb, is twice as big as I actually have space for, or that I can actually cover given time constraints or how much work I'm willing to put into it.

But usually if you've got x amount of space, my thought was oh, I can fit twice as much as I thought. And then once you start writing, you're like wow, this is taking a lot longer to explain and fully flesh out than I thought it would. So I think the biggest thing I learned was when I'm fashioning a topic and constructing a thesis, I really need to refine my thoughts on the topic and my plan for it much more so than I originally do.

And I think that's a common lesson in life, is actually you're much more ambitious than you actually have time or resources to be able to follow through on.