Hello Thesis 1 -- (Anezka's Section)  
This is a long "to do" list...Read them all first and pick your favorites.   
These should be enough to keep you busy all summer! Make sure you give yourself and your ideas "simmer" or relaxation time! That is when your ideas have a chance to cook and mature.

1. Work with the grid of nine and figure out how you can manifest your ideas in an *experience*, I am fairly sure that we will require that you bring in your grid of nine to the first studio in the fall.

2. Use the summer to refine your writing, craft, and technology skills.

3. Keep a sketchbook and photos/video of everything you create. Make a filing cabinet or box that says MFA DT THESIS. Keep a research blog.

4. PLAY with your ideas by making low-resolution prototypes of them-then test your ideas on innocent bystanders who know nothing about your project. Note the amount of time you spent on your iterations. MAKE lots of low res stuff.

5. Talk with your classmates (class of 2017) about your ideas. They are your first community of practice (see #8). The more you talk the clearer you will become. When you talk, audio record what you say and use it as a journal or blog entry.

6. Schedule talks with me -- I'm around this summer on Skype.

7. Write down 20 questions you are seeking answers to. Refine those questions daily (or whenever you want). Keep the questions in your journal.

8. Find your COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE and get started on your research by starting with their research or knowledge base--then expand upon it. A community of practice can include professors at The New School -- there are several thousands of us; a company or not-for-profit that is investigating the ideas or part of your ideas that are compelling to you;  group or community that needs your thesis; gallery/art/ design/history museum, group  or curator who is interested in the questions you are asking.   
9. Travel and engage with people and places you want to include in your thesis research.   
10. Get permissions from your community of practice to work with them officially (in writing).

11. As you accumulate sources (both primary and secondary research), keep an annotated bibliography. If you do interviews or site visits video tape your experience.

12. Establish a keyword list to do focused research in your thesis domain.

13. Brenda Laurel's Design Research is a helpful although a bit outdated book. There are good design processes and thinking in that book.

PLAY and have fun -- THESIS is:CONCEPT, CONTENT, CONTRIBUTION. Immerse yourself in experiences you love, write about them, unpack them, learn from them.

Resources: (attached) Cornell Note taking for readings (in case you need it!) -- when you read or watch or play with anything KEEP NOTES.

For writing questions use: [https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/1/](https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/1/" \t "_blank)

For thesis questions --this is our original evergreened site: [http://thesis.cdt.parsons.edu/](http://thesis.cdt.parsons.edu/" \t "_blank) - this is for references only--we have formatted much of thesis differently now but this is still a helpful resource. You should read (at minimum) [http://thesis.cdt.parsons.edu/thesisbook.pdf](http://thesis.cdt.parsons.edu/thesisbook.pdf" \t "_blank)

From Ethan:

Read as much as possible.  Newspapers, magazines, books, fiction and non-fiction in your research domain.  Good writing comes from reading good source material both in and out of your field of inquiry.  For example, I find the best writing is in The New Yorker and they cover news, design, science, medicine, fashion, culture, humor.  Reading will help all the steps of the thesis process as you create your own work.  Keep a running bibliography and see what will be useful specifically to your upcoming thesis.

ESL students:  It is imperative that you work on your English skills through reading and writing.  If writing has been a problem for you the past year, this summer is crucial to improve your abilities.  This goes beyond The Writing Center and may involve tutoring or whatever it will take to get yourself up to a working level for TS1.  
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Best,

Anezka