WRITING ACCOUNTABILITY FOR RESEARCH PROJECTS

Dr. Kristina Quynn, Director CSU Writes

CSU Writes' WRITING ACCOUNTABILITY FOR RESEARCH PROJECTS helps faculty, postdocs, and researchers build momentum on writing projects with bi-weekly email check-ins, weekly writing tips, and semester goal-setting & scheduling support.

The process is simple:

- Register for the WRITING ACCOUNTABILITY FOR RESEARCH PROJECTS on the CSU Writes' website: https://csuwrites.colostate.edu/productivity/.
- CSU Writes will email you to gather details about your current writing projects and writing goals.
- Respond with your BIG PICTURE writing goals (month, semester).

- A CSU Writes productivity liaison will check in with you each Monday to ask about your week's goals and each Friday to ask what progress you made on those goals.
- Reply with goals and status.
- Rinse and repeat…weekly. We track your progress.
- At the end of your WARP duration (semester, month, summer), we recognize & you can celebrate what you've accomplished!

According to research psychologist and faculty writing productivity expert Robert Boice, having an external party to whom you are accountable for meeting your writing goals is the third key element (along with SCHEDULING your writing projects/sessions and keeping a wiring LOG) for writers to keep writing projects moving forward.

CSU Writes WARP offering, as with all our offerings, maintains the confidentiality of faculty, postdoc, and research participants even as we build fruitful connections among CSU's research writers.

CSU WRITES

PURPOSE

Because good research is good writing, CSU Writes supports the professional development of researchers as writers. We help researchers write more frequently and with greater ease. Through workshops, feedback or writing groups, retreats, and more, we provide career-sustaining writing productivity offerings to foster research excellence locally at CSU.

CSU Writes is a responsive program with diverse offerings because the fields of expertise and the career goals of CSU's researchers are likewise diverse. Reach out to discuss options for you, your department, or your college.

As a research support program, CSU Writes is gratefully funded by the Graduate School & the Office of Vice President for Research.

REGISTRATION & CONTACT

CSU Writes Website
 csuwrites.colostate.edu

Questions
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career-sustaining writing practice and productivity support for CSU's researchers, faculty, postdocs, graduate students, & administrators

write. early. often. better. together.

WRITING ACCOUNTABILITY FOR GROUPS

Starting 2019-20, CSU Writes will pilot accountability support to groups of CSU research writers. Individual writers can still articulate their weekly writing goals and progress as part of their team or group of writers. Their progress will, however, be tracked as part of a research collaborative or collective. Research teams can benefit by clarifying team short-term and long-term goals and being accountable for articulating their progress toward meeting those goals. Writing groups can benefit by tracking the progress of their group overall throughout a semester.

If your research team or writing group consistently misses targeted project goals or if your writing group experiences mission-drift regularly, it might help to have an additional layer of accountability check-ins. You will need to identify your team or group's primary contact. That contact will reach out to the CSU Writes facilitator who will goal-query and record your team/group's progress over the semester. There are a limited number of spaces available for 2019-20 writing team/group pilot support project. If you have an interested team/group, contact CSU Writes: **csuwrites@colostate.edu** to set up your weekly team or group check-ins.

TIPS TO BUILD MOMENTUM ON WRITING PROJECTS

There's no single right way or method to build momentum on projects, but there are some practices or habits that can be modified to suit your writing personality, life, and goals. Experiment with the following:

- **Schedule project sessions** rather than writing sessions. If "writing" is too vague to help you quickly focus (or if you tend to resist "writing" in general), change the direction of the session to include project-related tasks. For example, email a colleague for clarification, edit a section, read a recently published source. Always, identify and work on **next steps** to move the project forward. You are more apt to "write" when you are familiar with what's next, which may (or may not) include intensive sessions of drafting, revising, or editing (i.e., writing).
- **At the close of each project session**, take a moment to **clearly state subsequent steps**. Then, leave yourself a note about what specific task to pick up with the next session.
- **Track your writing accomplishments and update each semester**. Keep a list and post it where you can see and update regularly. Your list of accomplishments can be broad and include all the hard-one elements of writing you worked to master or achieve that might remain hidden and would never go on a CV: newly mastered techniques, record writing streaks, and so forth. Post the list someplace where you can see it and update it regularly. The back of your office door, on a bulletin board, taped to the bottom of your laptop. Keep it someplace where you can track your personal and professional growth as a research writer and watch your accomplishments grow!.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Some Helpful Books on Academic Writing & Productivity

Robert BOICE	*Professors as Writers* (1990)
Stephen HEARD	*The Scientist's Guide to Writing* (2017)
Patricia GOODSON	*Becoming an Academic Writer: 50 Exercises…* (2017)
Joli JENSEN	*Write No Matter What* (2017)
Paul SILVIA	*How to Write a Lot* (2009)
Helen SWORD	*Air & Light & Time & Space* (2017)

Find additional CSU Writes GUIDES on such topics as

- 3 Keys to Research Writing Productivity
- Writing Groups
- show up & write.
- Getting the Most of Your Writing Retreat
- Writing and Identity

…and more… csuwrites@colostate.edu

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