

CSU Writes GUIDE

show up & write.



Dr. Kristina Quynn, Director CSU Writes

what is show up & write.? *show up & write.* is a drop-in writing initiative that helps researchers prioritize writing in their schedules and to build momentum on projects over a semester. Sessions are located in classrooms or conference rooms, depending on the day. Each session lasts for nearly (but not quite) 2 hours. You can find a current schedule at the **CSU Writes website:** <https://csuwrites.colostate.edu/show-up-and-write-sessions/>.

Sessions are proctored by a CSU faculty member, postdoc, or graduate student who has volunteered to show up regularly and write so that they, too, can make steady progress on their proposals, manuscripts, or other projects.

Attendance at 20 sessions earns writers a CSU Writes coffee mug or pint glass!

why "show up?" Joshua Schimel's assertion that scientists are actually professional writers (*Writing Science*, 2011) speaks to all researchers at CSU who publish or rely on grant funds to build their careers. Writing is THE primary path for sharing new knowledge as well as for building and crafting our valuable expertise.

Studies show that academics tend to write more and more easily when they write together (Murray, 2014). CSU Writes' drop-in writing sessions help research writers focus and work more efficiently because the sessions are designed to limit distractions and "contain" the very time, place, and duration of a writing stretch.

who can show up? All at CSU are welcome to **show up & write.** This is an inclusive campus space, where we come together to support each other as writers. You can be a chemist working on a grant proposal or a graduate student working on a thesis or staff member working on a novel—all are welcome.

Consider making a date with a colleague—an "**accountabilibuddy**"—who can make showing up even easier (akin to going to the gym).

what I can expect? Each session begins with a couple of minutes to get settled. Then writers...well...write. Be sure to bring your own writing and reading gear (including ear buds, if you wish to listen to music). Please note, these are **not** review sessions. No writing is exchanged.

where & when can I show up? You can find session times and locations at the **CSU Writes website:** <https://csuwrites.colostate.edu/show-up-and-write-sessions/>. Sessions times and locations are posted the second week of a semester. Summer sessions are available but more limited.

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](https://csuwrites.colostate.edu)

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CSU WRITES
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

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

write. early. often. better. together.

writing in social spaces



Writing—regardless of discipline, writer’s skill-level, or genre complexities—can be challenging. For individual researchers and academics who juggle many professional duties, the challenges of creating the time and space to write can be equally great, if not greater, than the very task of writing itself. Education scholar and research dean, Rowena Murray points out that writing can feel solitary but that it mostly *relational*. “Social writing” or write-together sessions, according to Murray, can be instrumental for “changing writing behaviours” positively and for facilitating a complex “management of competing tasks” (134).

Writing-designated locations help academics manage electronic (email, text messages, phone calls, app alerts) and analog (coworkers, students, family, dogs and cats) distractions. [show up & write](#). sessions are distraction-free zones where people move manuscripts or proposals or other writing-related tasks forward. Working in a writing-designated space with other writers can buoy flagging spirits and keep writers on-task when they might otherwise quit for the day or get sucked into lower priority, but simpler, tasks.

If you have a colleague or lab partner—select a day and time to meet and write together. Or make a regular date with yourself to attend a couple sessions a week to write alongside writers from a variety of programs and departments across campus. [show up & write](#). is open to ALL writers and affirms CSU’s Principles of Community to “create and nurture inclusive environments and welcome, value and affirm all members of our community....”

productivity & showing up to write at CSU



The literature on writing productivity provides numerous and ever-multiplying strategies for academics to try: “schedule every minute” (Newport), “write every day” (Boice), create “BASE habits” (Sword). These approaches vary and may suit the disposition of one writer better than another, but all productivity experts endorse a version of Judy Bridges’ witty imperative that, to be productive, writers must first *Shut Up & Write!* Bridges reminds us to stop talking about our writing and to just start doing it. Inspired by Bridges, CSU Writes encourages writers first to “show up” and then to work among our quiet and focused companions. CSU student Amanda Fiske highlighted our unique approach in her CSU Life piece about [show up & write](#)..

Select sessions of [show up & write](#). can be sponsored by departments or campus groups. If you or your department would like to sponsor a session over a semester, reach out to CSU Writes and we would love to add your session to the roster so that other writers might join you at your site.

bibliography



- Boice, Robert.** *Professors as Writers* (1990)
Bridges, Judy. *Shut Up & Write!* (2011)
CSU, *Principles of Community* (2017)
Fiske, Amanda. “CSU Writes Offers Communal Writing Sessions for Productivity.” *CSU Life* (2019)
Murray, Rowena. *Writing in Social Spaces* (2105)
Newport, Cal. *Deep Work* (2017)
Schimmel, Joshua. *Writing Science* (2011)
Sword, Helen. *Air & Light & Time & Space.* (2017)

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on such topics as

- Writing Accountability for Research Projects
- 3 Keys to Research Writing Productivity
- Writing Groups
- Get the Most of Your Writing Retreat
- FAQ about CSU Writes

...and more... csuwrites@colostate.edu