A Discussion of:

Practical Tips for Publishing Scholarly Articles
For the National Center for Faculty Development and Diversity

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Practical Tips for Publishing Scholarly Articles
For the National Center for Faculty Development and Diversity

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Alternative Title

How to overcome your anxiety, fear, immobility, guilt and shame, get off your tush, and start to write…
How to get a faculty position, get tenure and achieve inner harmony and world peace
Reasons For Writing And Publishing

• Writings as a method of inquiry
• Writing and self-reflection improves teaching and practice
• Publish or perish—gaining a faculty position and then tenure
• Even in teaching institutions, publication can often equal prestige and privilege
• People presume competence and accomplishment when you publish
Self Assessment of Writing and Publishing Capacity

- Ten minute free-write (oh no, he really IS making us work!!)
- What gets in your way when trying to write?
- What are your fears regarding publishing?
- What are your barriers to writing?
- What are you skill deficits?
Let's Talk about Writer's Block

* A false syndrome that really consists of various biopsychosocial impediments

* As such, you need to understand your specific blocks and impediments

* Are you using this as an excuse?
Psychological Barriers

*Irrational beliefs
  "I have to have data before I publish anything"
  "Only really accomplished scholars can publish"

* Self downing thoughts
  "I could never write that much"
  "I really don't have that much to say"
  "I don't write well enough to publish"

Emotional Barriers (Anxiety and depression)
Environmental Barriers

* A space not conducive to writing
* Too much or too little noise
* Poor lighting
* Disorder when you prefer order
* Think comfort
Physical Barriers

* Hunger
* Lack of sleep
* Muscle aches- not enough stretching
* Too much sugar or caffeine
* Poor health
Questions & Discussion
The Practice of Writing

• Who here likes to write?
• Writing is like meditation, it is painful at first, but gets easier when approached as a discipline
• With very little time commitment, writing can be integrated into your work/life
• Persistence beats brilliance
Production goals

* Why production goals?
* Short term, intermediate term, and long term goals
* Writing exercise- What are you current writing goals?
* Time goals
* Page goals
* Think of articles as not being 20 page papers, but as being small papers (these are your sections).
Myth- Good Writing is Rewriting

* If you get one thing from me, get this- Writing and rewriting are totally different functions. Never, Never, Never edit while you write.
  -Why would I say that?

* Left verses right brain, perhaps not totally accurate science, but a good metaphor.

* Follow your energy
Idea Formulation

• What is your passion, your bliss?
• What is bothering you about a certain topic or issue?
• What is missing in regard to what is known?
• What sources of “data” do you have about the topic or issue?
Idea Generation Tools

Brainstorming

- Titles of articles you want to write
- Free-writing
- Mind mapping
- Select a title of an article, we will use it next
Questions & Discussion
Types Of Published Scholarship

• Peer reviewed (also called refereed) journal articles
• Invited articles
• Book reviews
• Letters to the editor
• Non-peer reviewed articles
• Books
• Book chapters
Types of Refereed Articles

- Quantitative research studies
- Qualitative research studies
- Theoretical explorations
- Conceptual explorations
- Case studies
- Practice descriptions
- Program descriptions
- Policy analysis
- Crossover descriptions (from your field, to another)
- Creative formulations
- Think outside the box
- Read various types of articles
- Browse titles!!!!
Understanding The Review Process

• What is blind review, and how blind is it?
• What do editors do?
• How do editors feel?
• Who do editors know?
Choosing A Journal

- Goal for publication
- Prestige
- Quality
- Author friendly
- Acceptance rate
- Review time
- Match between article and journal
- Electronic verses paper
- Choose top journal and then select two back ups
- Assessing "author friendliness"
Questions & Discussion
Preparing your manuscript

- Article architecture
- Writing game plan
- Collaboration?

- Manuscript preparation
- Submitting the article
- Managing the politics of the review process
- Revising the article
- Acceptance, what now?
Questions & Discussion
Article Architecture- Traditional

• Introduction......
• Paragraph one-rationale, why this is important
• Paragraph two-what is the purpose of the article, how will you accomplish the purpose
• Set up the rest of the article, and follow the set up.
• Take that title you saved, and write the first two paragraphs!
Traditional Architecture Continued

- Literature review-related to topic and methods. Be focused and clear, literature should provide a rationale, and point to gaps in the knowledge and relate directly to YOUR article
- Methodology
- Findings
- Discussion
- Conclusion- Make sure this is clearly related to the journal that you choose.
  - Now, use this architecture to rewrite the paragraph you wrote before.
The Game Plan

• What do you need to write your article?
  o Information
  o Help
  o Resources
• Timeline for writing and submitting article
• Goals for writing, process goals verses outcomes
Collaboration?

• Advantages of collaboration
• Disadvantages of collaboration
• Can you easily do all of this yourself?
• Is there another colleague who can help you complete it faster?
• Is there anyone who can improve the article?
• Do I want to work with someone?
• The power of Google docs and collaborative workspaces
Manuscript Preparation

- Go do it!
- Three types of writing and doing them all-Free writing, focused writing, editing
- When am I done?
- Is the article in the correct format?- Linking article to journal BEFORE you start.
Submitting Your Article

• Review guidelines for contributors
• e-submit or submission system
• Attention to detail
• Cover letter
Managing The Politics Of Review

• Establishing a good relationships
• Remember, while the reviewers do not know who are you, the editor does (and this is not always true about reviewers)
• The editor makes the final decision!

• Can you comment on something the editor has recently written?
• Time, what is acceptable
• Correspondence
Questions & Discussion
Potential Decisions

• The importance of evaluating comments
• The comments are about the article, not about YOU
• Rejection- now what?
• Revise and resubmit-when to do so, when to move on
• Acceptance with revisions
• Acceptance
Revisions Issues

- Decoding the editor’s and reviewers’ comments
- What must I respond to?
- Doing the revisions
- Writing the revision letter
Acceptance, what now?

• Celebrate!!
• The day after your celebration, write one page for your next project, keep it going!
• Waiting for the copy editor
• Reprints
• Share your publication with colleagues
• Update your cv.
Developing a Scholarship Plan

• Why do I want to publish?
• What do I want to publish about?
• What are the sources of knowledge about my areas of interest?
• What are the titles of the articles I want to write?
• What must I do to start the process?

• What are my strengths in this process?
• What are my weaknesses?
• How can I use collaboration and other methods to mitigate my weaknesses?
• What can I do each day to move towards publication?
Questions & Discussion