IMPROVING YOUR RESEARCH PRODUCTIVITY

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SESSION OVERVIEW

- Understanding the Fear of Writing
- Strategies for Writing Success
- Time Management for the New Professor
- Useful Resources
On Being a Writer and a Scholar
“…26 percent of professors spent zero hours a week writing and almost 27 percent had never published a peer-reviewed journal article.”

(pg. 1. Becker referencing a study by Lindholm et al. 2005)
Silvia, Paul J.

How to Write a Lot: A Practical Guide to Productive Writing

“Specious Barriers to Writing”...or the writing myths we tell ourselves....
Myth #1: I can’t find time to write!
Myth #2: I need to do some more analysis (read articles, collect data, etc…) before I can write.
Myth #3: To write a lot, I need a new computer (desk, chair, office).
Myth #4: I’m waiting for inspiration.
WANT TO WRITE MORE? SET GOALS!

- An IMPORTANT part of the writing process
- Set project goals
- Prioritize goals
  - What is YOUR writing goal?
  - Never reward writing with not writing!
Set your daily writing goal. For example:

- Write at least 200 words
- Write for one hour a day
- Print, read, and revise a draft paper
- Make a new list of project goals
- Research a missing citation for a paper
- Read and respond to reviewer’s comments
SETTING PRIORITIES (A LA SILVIA)

- Checking page proofs and copyediting manuscripts
- Finishing projects with deadlines
- Revising manuscripts to resubmit to a journal
- Reviewing manuscripts and grant proposals**
- Developing a new manuscript
- Doing miscellaneous writing
MONITOR YOUR PROGRESS

- Keep a log of your progress!
  - Spreadsheet
  - SAS or SPSS
  - Written log
- Join a writing group
- Accountability is the key
TIME MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

- Articulate your goals (personal and professional)
- Do what is meaningful to you.
- Accurately estimate how much time each activity will require.
TIME MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

- Schedule your time to include ALL aspects of your work
- Manage disruptions to your time
  - This includes your “electronic” life!
- Prioritize tasks
- If possible, schedule your teaching and service obligations
ACADEMIC WRITING AND SOCIAL MEDIA

- Shut up and Write Tuesdays!  
  https://suwtuesdays.wordpress.com/
- @SWUTues #suwtues
- Academic Writing on Twitter #AcWri
- Academic Writing Month #AcWriMo
LIBRARY RESOURCES

- Research Services
  - Citation Managers: EndNote, Zotero, Mendeley
- Workshops
- Institutional Repository
CAMPUS RESOURCES

- Writing Center
- Office of Research and Economic Development
- Center for Teaching and Learning
REFERENCES

QUESTIONS?

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Your feedback on this session is greatly appreciated!