Faculty Writing Groups
—Program Description—

Begun as Women Faculty Writing Groups sponsored by the College, the School of Education, and the Campus Writing Program, the Faculty Writing Groups (which still include Women Writing Groups) are now open to all IU faculty.

Designed to support faculty as they write for publication, and by extension, for promotion and tenure, the program also aims to help introduce faculty to resources available to them in the library and on the web.

The online application is available: http://tinyurl.com/WWGApplication

Core Principles
The groups are founded upon two basic principles: 1) daily writing produces better quality work while also minimizing stress; and 2) group accountability helps reinforce motivation. These strategies can be especially difficult to implement without some external structure and support. In order to help you integrate these skills into your writing practice, we provide weekly writing-based workshops that focus on the needs of faculty writing throughout the disciplines.

Structure of the Groups
Each writing group runs for 3 hours weekly, divided this way:
Group discussion and goal setting (first 30 mins): This portion will be facilitated by a faculty facilitator and/or a Scholarly Writing Program staffer who will discuss writing and motivational strategies, and allow each member of the group to share their progress since the last meeting and set goals for structured writing time.

Structured writing time (remaining 2+ hours): All members of the group will spend the remaining time working on their individual projects. While this stint will be focused on individual work, the facilitator(s) and other members of the writing group will be nearby to answer any questions and offer support.

Participants will
- commit to regular attendance for the semester
- keep a record of their goals and progress
- provide facilitators with ongoing feedback about the program

Group Facilitators will
- lead a short discussion/workshop at the beginning of each session, soliciting group input about topics of interest
- facilitate group discussion of goals, strategies, and long-term writing plans
- help participants to remain on-task (and away from e-mail, Facebook, YouTube, or other distractions)
- be available to offer advice or feedback on the writing process or a particular piece of writing

Updated 11/15
List of Possible Topics for full-group discussion

- Training yourself to write every day
- Productive goal-setting strategies
- Types of revision and feedback (structural, surface-level, etc.)
- Balancing teaching/writing/service
- Strategies for dealing with writer’s block and rejected projects
- Eliminating the “imposter syndrome”

Motivation and Participation

In these writing groups, punctuality is more than just a gesture of courtesy towards your facilitator. Committing to attend your sessions every week at the allotted time helps you to protect that time. Another foundation of these writing groups is group interaction and support. The first section of each session is set aside for discussion of writing strategies and the sharing of personal goals and progress. When you arrive late, you may still have the ability to share your thoughts and receive advice, but you have missed the opportunity to listen to your other group members and offer support. This leads to a one-sided relationship and is a strain on the group as a whole.

We realize that weather, travel, and parking regulations can make things difficult, but please take your commitment to the group seriously and make arrangements that allow you to reliably arrive on time. Please remember that the writing groups are competitive—participants that are repeatedly tardy or absent will not be selected to continue in future semesters.

Preparation for Week 1 meeting

We all bring our own talents and strategies to the writing process; we all know a lot about writing. Nevertheless, writing is not effortless. For the first week of meetings, we ask that you come prepared to

a) Describe your current writing project (let’s stick to one project per person for time’s sake) in 2 minutes.

b) Be open to new ideas and strategies for managing your writing time.

Some of our meeting spaces are not equipped with computers, so please bring your laptop to each meeting.

Writing Group schedules and sign-up

Weekly three-hour slots for writing groups are determined semester by semester. The call for applications typically goes out about a month before the start of each semester. We will be using Canvas to allow each participant to sign up for a group time that fits her schedule. Once applications have been collected and reviewed, those eligible to join a group will be invited to a Canvas site via email. That email will detail when and how you may sign yourself up for a writing group.

Contact information

All participants will be members of a Canvas worksite: Faculty Writing Groups. Announcements and resources for the whole group are available there. Each specific writing group also has its own group to use for internal messages.

For further information about these writing groups, contact Laura Plummer, Director, Scholarly Writing Program, Bryan Hall 111, lplummer@indiana.edu or 812-855-5337.