

*Thriving in Academia:
How to create and
maintain productive
writing collaborations*

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Textbook and Academic Authors Association

June 2016

San Antonio, Texas

Agenda (60 min.)

1. Introduction & Background (10 min.)
2. Content & Discussion (30 min.)
3. Writing Reflection & Closing Discussion (10 min.)
4. Questions (10 min.)

Introduction & Background

Who we are

- Margarita Huerta – Assistant Professor, Department of Educational and Clinical Studies, UNLV: English Language Learning Program; K-2 Bilingual Teaching experience; Interest in **science and writing integration for ELs** in the content areas
- Tracy Spies – Assistant Professor, Department of Educational and Clinical Studies, UNLV: English Language Learning Program; Elementary Bilingual Teaching experience; Interest in **oral language development of ELs in content areas**
- Tiberio Garza – Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Educational Psychology and Higher Education, UNLV: Statistics; Program evaluation experience; Interest in application **of methodology to research with ELs**

We are all graduates of Texas A&M University transplanted to the University of Nevada, Las Vegas UNLV 😊

Who you are

- University faculty?
- Graduate Student?
- Professional Writer/
Editor?
- Other?



Think-Pair-Share

- How much writing are you expected to produce per year to maintain your profession? (e.g., number of articles/manuscripts per year; number of pages or words per year).
- In your field of work, what do you need to have in place before you can produce a manuscript?
- How long does it typically take for your work to get published? (e.g., go through the submission, review, revision, and publication process?).

Example from Social Science

- Expectation to produce 2-3 quality, data-based manuscripts per year to make tenure. In writing, tenure is a 7 year process, but it is really closer to a 5 year process from the time of hire to the time of submissions for review.
- Need to have: Data from some form of field-based study. These studies can take from 1-5 years to conduct and are usually costly (which means you need grants).
- Manuscript needs to have strong grounding in literature, theory, and strong methodology and data-analysis.
- Once sent out, our manuscripts can take from 1-2 years to get published.

YOU CAN'T DO THIS ALONE

- Well, you can if you have data from a grant or post-doc that you can publish out of for the first few years of your tenure-process. *You still have to have strong collaborations to continue to produce and analyze data.*
- It is becoming increasingly hard to work alone – or maintain working alone – in the current academic landscape.
- **Example:** Access to school districts is difficult; field-work is costly and time-intensive; work demands make writing/thinking time precious and hard to find; the pressure for grants is strong in higher education; the problems we are expected to “solve” are increasingly complex, requiring expertise from different people (ELL, science, language, statistics)...
- ... BUT...

- ... with a **collaborative writing team** to help piece things together and motivate you, it is possible to meet the writing output standards!

Research...

- ...is scant, but what exists tells us:
- Collaborative research has higher acceptance rates for articles (e.g., Bahr & Zemon, 2000; Hernon, Smith, & Croxen, 1993).
- There are some models for this type of work, though they have little detail (Austin & Baldwin, 1991; Crow, Levine, & Nager, 1992; Nall & Gustavson, 2010).
- ***We agree that collaborative research has advantages and we will present our model with tips and ideas. 😊***



*Tips on Forming
Writing
Collaborations*

Know Who You are Working With

- Observe your colleague(s). See if you can work with them. Are they trustworthy? Are they honest? Do they come through?
- Do you complement each other? In other words, do you fill a gap they have and do they fill a gap you have in your writing? (more on this later...)
- ***TIP: Work on a small project together and try out the collaboration.***
- Example

Approach Your Colleague(s)

- Chances are, they are hungry for a good collaboration, too!
- Connect your work to theirs.
- Highlight their strengths as well as yours.
- ***Tip: Keep your collaborations small (2-3 people is a good number).***
- Example



*Tools to Maintain
Healthy Writing
Collaborations*

Affective Points to Consider

- Be clear about expectations including author order and the writing sections.
- Meet regularly and keep the communication open.
- Like any relationship, admit mistakes, forgive each other, and keep the focus on the END GOAL.
- Example

THE AUTHOR LIST: GIVING CREDIT WHERE CREDIT IS DUE

The first author
Senior grad student on the project. Made the figures.

The third author
First year student who actually did the experiments, performed the analysis and wrote the whole paper. Thinks being third author is "fair".

The second-to-last author
Ambitious assistant professor or post-doc who instigated the paper.

Michaels, C., Lee, E. F., Sap, P. S., Nichols, S. T., Oliveira, L., Smith, B. S.

The second author
Grad student in the lab that has nothing to do with this project, but was included because he/she hung around the group meetings (usually for the food).

The middle authors
Author names nobody really reads. Reserved for undergrads and technical staff.

The last author
The head honcho. Hasn't even read the paper but, hey, he/she got the funding, and their famous name will get the paper accepted.

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Author Order

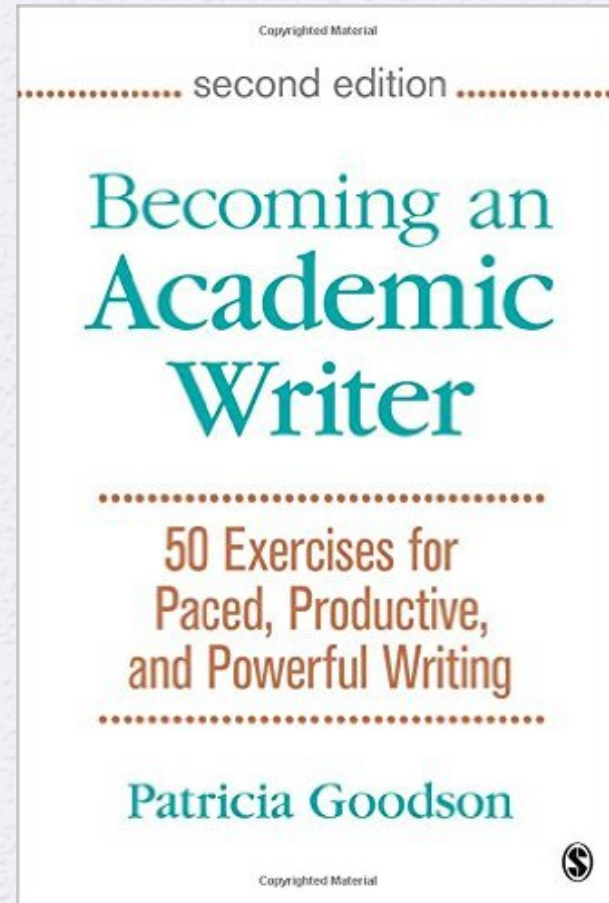
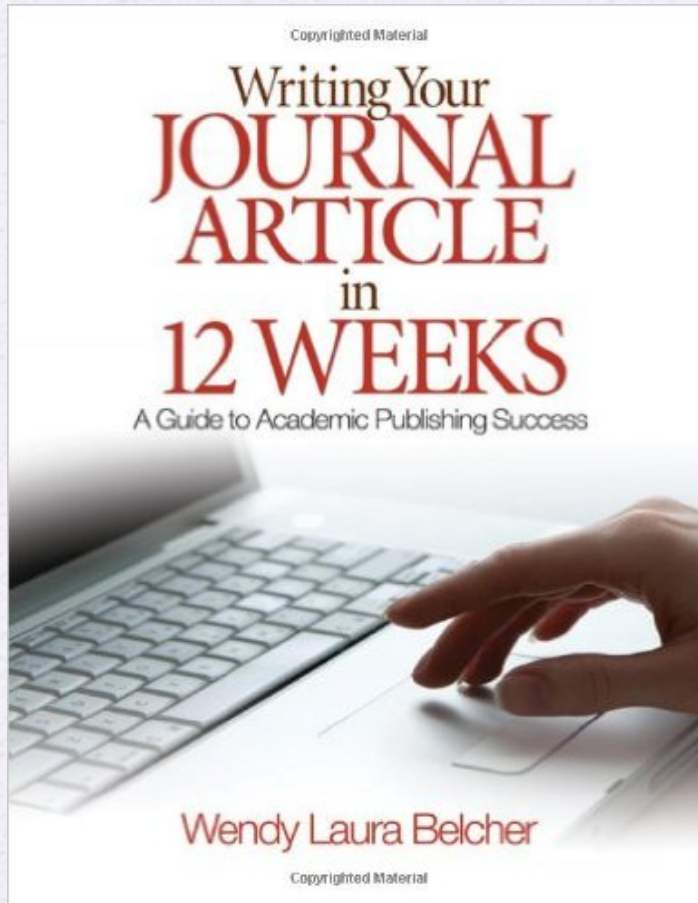
Note: In social sciences, names are weighted heavier, the closer they are to the front of the list.

Ways of determining authorship:

	Yes - first author	No - second or beyond
Is the author the PI of a grant?		
Is the author the owner of the data?		
Did the author take the lead on this part of the data or concept?		

Tip: On large projects, depending on the writing process (everyone writes one section or lead author writes entire paper with feedback), consider rotating author order. This is also why it is helpful to keep writing collaborations SMALL.

Tangible Tools



Tangible Tools Cont...

Writing collaboration progress template¹

AS A TEAM...

Big Picture

1. How many manuscripts did you **publish** this year; how many conference presentations were **completed**; how many grants **accepted**?

- Manuscripts:
- Conferences:
- Grants:

2. How many manuscripts, conference presentations, and/or grants are **out for review**?

- Manuscripts:
- Conferences:
- Grants:

3. What manuscripts, conference papers, grants **are in preparation**?

- Manuscripts:
- Conferences:
- Grants:

Details

1. Who will take lead on specific manuscripts?

- Manuscript 1:
- Manuscript 2:
- Manuscript 3:

2. Who will write which sections of what manuscripts?

- Manuscript 1:
- Manuscript 2:
- Manuscript 3:

3. Who will take the lead on conference papers, grants?

- Conferences:
- Grants:

Plan of Action

1. When will we meet?

2. What specific tools will we use to collaborate?

3. How will we continue to maintain constant communication?



Example of a Writing Collaborations

Writing collaboration progress template¹

AS A TEAM...

Big Picture	
1. How many manuscripts did you publish this year; how many conference presentations were completed ; how many grants accepted ?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manuscripts: -- • Conferences: 5 (3 TESOL); (1 AERA); (1 TAA) • Grants: --
2. How many manuscripts, conference presentations, and/or grants are out for review ?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manuscripts: 3 (<i>Science Education; Journal of School Psychology; CABE Journal</i>) • Conferences: 2 (2 NSTA) • Grants: 1 (Dept. of Education)
3. What manuscripts, conference papers, grants are in preparation ?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manuscripts: 3 (Case Study; Pre-post Data; Meta-Analysis) • Conferences: 7 (3 AERA); (3 HICE); (1 TAA) • Grants: NSF Grant

Details	
1. Who will take lead on specific manuscripts?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manuscript 1: Case Study: Tracy • Manuscript 2: Pre-Post Data: Maggie • Manuscript 3: Meta-Analysis: Tiberio
2. Who will write which sections of what manuscripts?	See above
3. Who will take the lead on conference papers, grants?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conferences: AERA & HICE (Tracy, Tiberio, Maggie); TAA (Maggie) • Grants: Maggie

Plan of Action	
1. When will we meet?	Once a month at the end of the month.
2. What specific tools will we use to collaborate?	Pat Goodson's book.
3. How will we continue to maintain constant communication?	Text; Face-to-Face; Skype when needed.

Reflection & Discussion

Template Hand-Outs

Writing collaboration planning template¹

Big Picture

1. **How much** writing are you expected to produce per year (e.g., number of manuscripts/articles; number of pages or words)

2. What is your **field of work** (e.g., research, study, writing area)?

3. In your field of work, **what do you need** to have in place before you can produce a manuscript?

Details

1. Break down the **sections** of your typical writing piece (e.g., Literature, Theory, Methods, Data-Analysis, Discussion).

2. What are your **writing strengths** in a writing piece? Who do you know that you can compensate with your writing strengths?

3. What are your **writing weaknesses** in a writing piece? Who do you know that can compensate for your weaknesses?

Plan of Action

1. **When** will I approach my colleague(s)?

2. What specific **tools** will we use to collaborate?

3. How will we specifically maintain constant **communication**?

Instructions

- Use the templates to either plan a collaboration or track your collaboration progress.
- Discuss your ideas with your neighbor.
- If you feel comfortable, share with the group.

*Thank You! Any
questions?*

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