

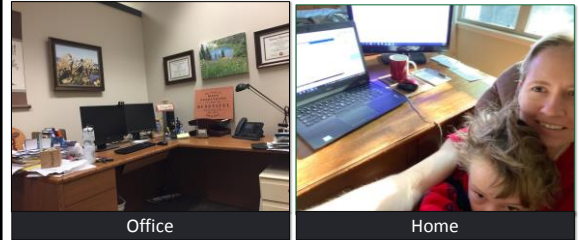
AECT 2020 Workshop Desks of Ed Tech Scholars
Crafting Writing Spaces: Insights from Educational Technology Scholars Around the World

Presenters:
 Susie Gronseth, Curtis J. Bonk, Thomas C. Reeves,
 Tiffany Roman, Meina Zhu



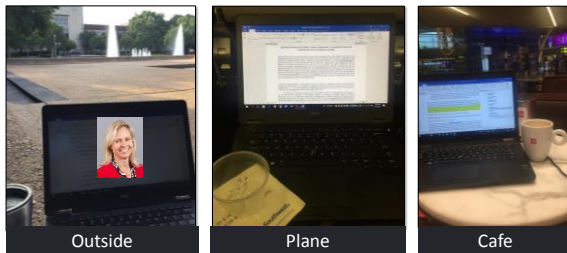
1

Susie Gronseth's Typical Writing Spaces



2

Writing...Writing...Everywhere!



3

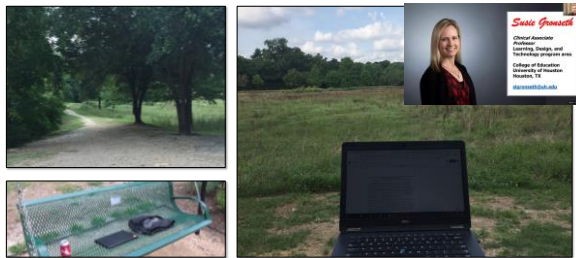
Susie Gronseth, University of Houston
Writing...on a bus...in Africa

<https://uh.edu/education/about/directory/employee-profile/index.php?id=618>



4

A Motivating Change of Scenery



5

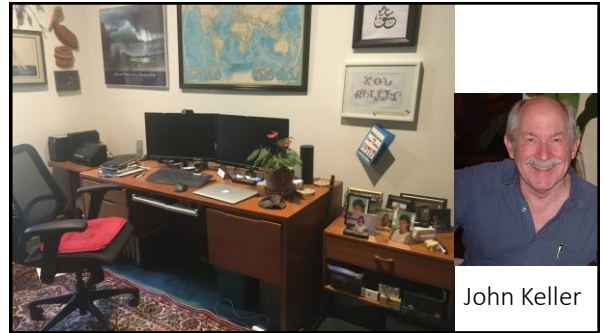
Part I:
Writing Spaces and Tips

Section Presenter:
Tom Reeves, UGA

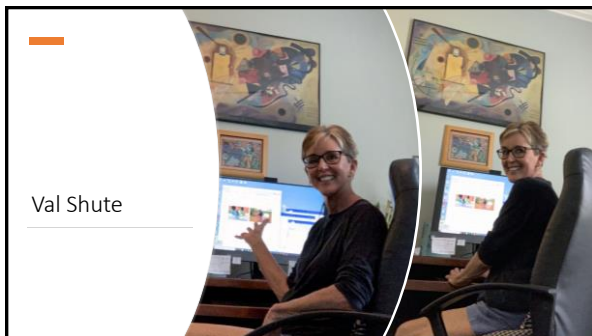
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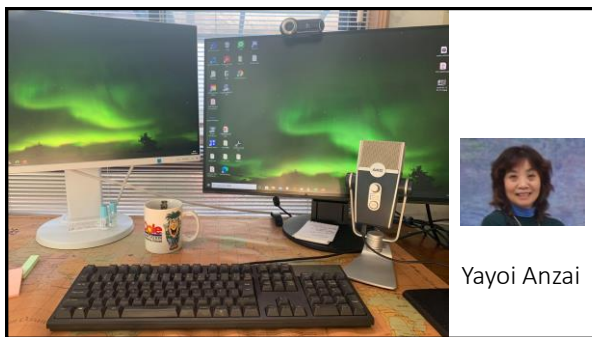
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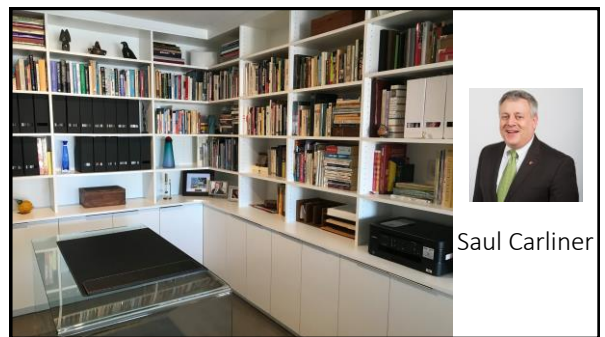
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Paul
Kirschner

13



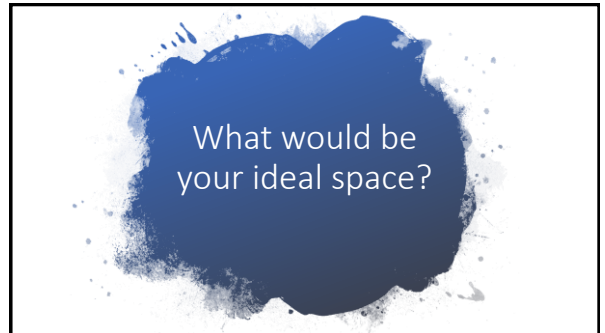
Eva Baker

14



Tom Reeves

15



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Part 2:
Writing Spaces and Tips

Section Presenter:
Meina Zhu, Wayne State

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Dr. Lin Lin

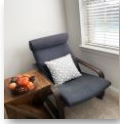
Professor, Department of Learning Technologies, College of Information, University of North Texas

As far as writing, I usually need to set aside a block of time to write, and it usually takes longer than I have hoped. Yet, if I set aside time and get started, I usually can get it done and be happy about it. I know some people can do 15 minutes a day, but that doesn't work for me.

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Dr. Yunjo An

Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Learning Technologies, College of Information, University of North Texas



- Write with your target audience in mind.
- Be concise and to the point.
- Revise, revise, revise!

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Dr. George Veletsianos

A full Professor in the School of Education and Technology at Royal Roads University. He holds the Canada Research Chair in Innovative Learning and Technology and the Commonwealth of Learning Chair in Flexible Learning.



- When I write I block my access to the Internet to eliminate distractions.

- I write in blocks of time and those range from 30 minutes to 2 hours, depending on availability.

- I write very rough (and bad) first drafts that I edit later.



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Dr. Florence Martin

Dr. Martin a Professor in Learning, Design and Technology, Program Director of the Post-Master's Certificate of University and College Teaching and Program Coordinator of the Ed.D. in Educational Leadership, Learning, Design and Technology concentration at University of North Carolina Charlotte.



- Set goals and deadlines
- Write about topics that you are passionate about
- Find a collaborative team to support you on projects

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Dr. Looi Chee Kit

Dr. Chee Kit is Head of Learning Sciences Lab of the National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological Society, the first research centre devoted to the study of the sciences of learning in the Asia-Pacific region.



- We always think: I need to have my thought process sorted out or my ideas clarified before I started typing or writing. Oftentimes, once I start typing, the flow comes. Especially when I wrote academic reviews of papers submitted to journals or conferences. So don't procrastinate, you can do the writing and thinking together ...

If your first language is not English, don't hold back because of your fear of writing in the language. Get your ideas out first, get the thoughts flowing ... language editing can come latter. Focus on the ideas and the logical flow on the arguments. In some ways, academic writing is much easier than other forms of writing. Read more, imitate good writing, and keep thinking in English.

Get someone with writing experience to help to improve the writing. It can be a good fast way to improve.

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Dr. Fei Gao

Associate Professor in College of Technology Architecture and Applied Engineering at Bowling Green State University



- Regularly read the cutting-edge research in your field.
- Pay yourself first. Consider making writing your first task of the day.



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Dr. Eunjung Grace Oh

Associate Professor, Education Policy, Organization and Leadership, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

- Block writing times for deep work each week on calendar. Treat those times same as meetings.
- For days that I cannot have a block of time for writing, revisit the work-in-progress file for a short amount of time (20-30 mins would be fine) to keep up with my thinking thread and write as much as I could (e.g., revising/adding a paragraph, etc.).
- Form a writing group with junior colleagues and meet once a month to share monthly writing goals and progress, and provide feedback on manuscripts, etc.



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Dr. Dabae Lee's Writing Tips

Assistant Professor and IDT Program
Director at Emporia State University

- × **Have sustainable and concrete goals.**
 - Don't be too harsh on yourself.
 - Little by little is okay.
 - Maybe a paragraph per day.
- × **Determine where to submit before starting to write.**
 - Write specifically for the journal's scope and requirements.
- × **Set the writing environment as enjoyable as possible.**
 - Favorite cup of tea or coffee.
 - Cafe music.
 - Enjoy the moment!



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Dr. Dabae Lee's Writing Spaces During the Pandemic

A writing space that I
share with my family.

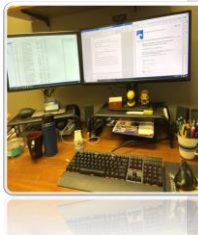
When I need to be alone -
A guest room in the
basement.

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Dr. Yeol Huh

Assistant
Professor and
IDT Program
Director at
Emporia State
University

- For me, not a special tip for writing, but I purchased a mechanical keyboard that gives you a lively sound and feels when typing. I just wanted to make the act of typing a pleasant task.
- Also, to help organize the reading materials for your literature review, using a blog type of tool with tagging is a good way. You can create a short summary of the article you read and give relevant tags (i.e., K-12, motivation, tech integration etc.) so that later you can sort the literature easily using the tag.



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Dr. Wanli Xing

Assistant Professor, School
of Teaching and Learning,
University of Florida

- **Write every day. I try my best to write something for research everyday.**
- **Establish strong collaborations.**



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Dr. Albert D. Ritzhaupt

Associate Professor of Educational Technology
and Computer Science Education
Associate Director for Graduate Studies
School of Teaching and Learning, University of Florida

- I don't think I am a good example of best practices for writing. I have been working at my dining room table for the past seven months, which is not ideally configured or ergonomic.
- Additionally, when I write, I go on short binges where I keep writing for hours until I run out of steam. I don't think these situations are good examples of writing practices.



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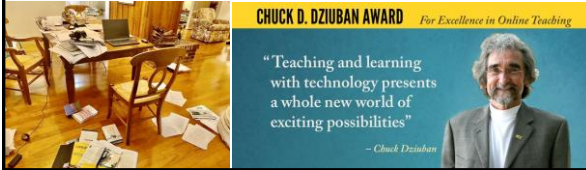
**Part 3.
Writing Spaces and Tips**

**Section Presenter:
Curt Bonk, Indiana Univ.**

30

1. Chuck Dziuban, University of Central Florida
<https://sciences.ucf.edu/statistics/dms/people/board/charles-d-dziuban/>
A typical Chuck writing space:

1. The way to learn to write is to write.
2. The first draft is always crap.
3. Progress is best made in bite sized chunks.
4. From Hemingway, "Write drunk, edit sober." ☺



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2. Patsy D. Moskal, University of Central Florida
 Director, Digital Learning Impact Evaluation
<https://digitallearning.ucf.edu/contact/>



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2. Patsy D. Moskal, University of Central Florida
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<https://digitallearning.ucf.edu/contact/>



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2. Patsy D. Moskal, University of Central Florida
 Director, Digital Learning Impact Evaluation
<https://digitallearning.ucf.edu/contact/>

- This is specific to 2020 as it's "different" to say the least!!
- My 2020 "COVID-writing" set-up (hubby and I share a folding buffet table side by side as our 2 sons have other rooms and we had to monitor the puppy)
 - And, my frequent writing "collaborators" ... or is it "cheerleaders?" (Zoe, Blue Merle, 11 mos; Annie, Black Tri, 2 yrs – Australian Shepherds)
 - More like "distractions" but good for a lot of hugs and kisses so they help and no doubt see themselves on anti-anxiety, anti-stress duty.

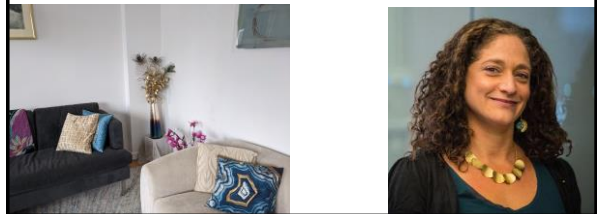
34

2. Patsy D. Moskal, University of Central Florida
 Director, Digital Learning Impact Evaluation
<https://digitallearning.ucf.edu/contact/>

- 2020 Writing tips:**
1. **Baby steps** are better than not moving! Even if only 10-15 minutes at a time, try to make some progress. **And, go easy on yourself if you miss your deadline.** Just keep moving!!
 2. Outlines are good to start planning and journal ideas or you may forget them later!
 3. **Learn from others** – a good lit review can tell you what others have done in the field and can help you organize your research and give you a foundation or models to follow. It can also help you with your writing.
 4. **Collaborate with those who are more productive and smarter than you.** ☺ They'll push you harder than you push yourself.
 5. **Research journals first** – not just author guidelines, but look for articles on similar topics. It's important to know what kind of statistics and topics a journal prefers prior to submitting! And, learn from rejection – read reviewers comments carefully and ask for them, if they aren't provided. Use them to revise and resubmit your paper – to a different journal if necessary! But, whatever you do, **DON'T GIVE UP!**

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3. Alyssa Friend Wise | Director, NYU Learning Analytics Research Network (NYU-LEARN)
 Associate Professor of Learning Sciences & Educational Technology | New York University
<https://steinhardt.nyu.edu/people/alyssa-wise>



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3. Alyssa Friend Wise, Director, NYU Learning Analytics Research Network (NYU-LEARN), Associate Professor of Learning Sciences & Educational Technology, New York University

1. I've always had my "writing space" separate from my "getting lots of things done efficiently space."
2. Find a physical space that helps gets you in the right head space.
3. Similar with time, **find when works for you** (for me it is first thing in the morning before I look at email and think about the other things I have to do, and mornings on Friday are especially good b/c I try to hold this as a writing day with few meetings).
4. And the last one would be, **just get words flowing down on paper** however you can - editing is "much" easier than creating from scratch and the first version doesn't need to be anywhere close to good. So my first round sentences might look like "Thus, there is an imperative for the field of learning analytics to take a human-centered orientation, both b/c our goal is to make a real difference in the world and XXX" (point being (a) "make a real difference" is not text I would ever put in a published piece, but it gets the idea out for now and (b) I know there is a second reason but can't formulate it yet so I put the X's - both keep me going to get out 10 starting point sentences, rather than stopping to make 1 perfect one).
5. Oh, and if your logic structure is mess, **try backwards outlining!**



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4. Ali Carr-Chellman, Dean University of Dayton

https://udayton.edu/directory/education/deans_office/carr-chellman_alison.php



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4. Ali Carr-Chellman, Dean University of Dayton

https://udayton.edu/directory/education/deans_office/carr-chellman_alison.php

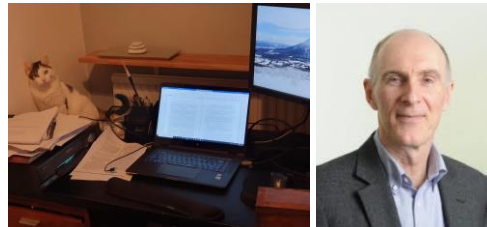
Writing Tips:

1. **Write all the time.** If you have 5 minutes use it to write, don't wait for those big blocks of time just write all the time. And if you are responding with a sigh and rolled eye, ask yourself if you really love writing. (Don't try to be an academic if you don't really love writing.)
2. **Take DEEP WORK DAYS**—this is absolutely essential to get some of those larger blocks of time that you need for real reading, reflection and thinking. Take one day a week if at all possible and try to keep everything off the calendar, work from home on that day if it's a good workplace for you.
3. **Don't wait till it's perfect**—send your writing into the world as soon as you can stomach it. You will be a significant critic of your own work, so get it out for peer review, submission to journals, etc. as soon as you can stand to do it. Remember, it will never be perfect.
4. **Don't take it personally**—make sure that when you get reviews you put on your thickest skin and don't be upset by what people say. Reviews are very mediated, so too often reviewers are not kind, they can be mean or cruel. It's unfortunate, but true. We've all dealt with it, and I don't see that process or the tenor of it changing anytime soon.



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5. Mike Sharples, Open University of UK



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5. Mike Sharples, Open University of UK

1. Try to **write something each day**, even if it's just a sentence
2. **Find your best time for writing** (for me it's 6am) and try to protect it from outside influences (including email and texts)
3. If you are stuck in writing a book, then **consider taking a month's leave**, take yourself off to a secluded cottage, set yourself a word target (e.g. 1000 words) and don't go to bed until you've achieved it
4. Read (and memorise, and practise) **George Orwell's six rules for writing clear prose** (see, e.g. <https://www.openculture.com/2016/05/george-orwell-s-six-rules-for-writing-clear-and-tight-prose.html>)
5. Otherwise, ignore anyone who says that there is a "best" way to write – there isn't (such as "create an outline plan", or "write what comes into your mind, then revise"). **Successful writers have a variety of writing methods.**
6. And if the words really won't flow, then don't force them. **Take a walk, or a shower.**

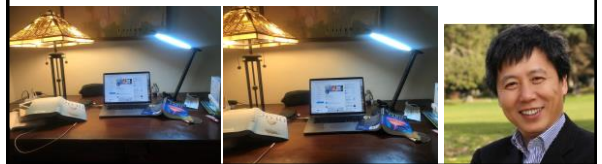


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6. Yong Zhao, University of Kansas

Suggestion 1: Writing is easy and thinking is hard. **I spend all the time thinking** and honestly much less time putting my thoughts down. So, keep the ideas in your head and think a lot.
Suggestion 2: **Read a lot, read things** that may or may not be directly relevant to your topic. It's very important for me to read news, stories, science, philosophy, history, and future.
Suggestion 3: **Keep writing.** Writing is what drives me to think and read.

<https://distinguishedprofessors.ku.edu/professor/zhao-y>

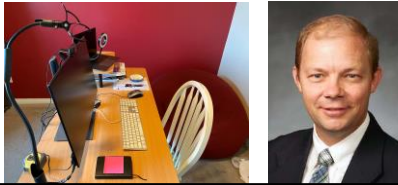


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7. Charles Graham, BYU

1. **Set aside a couple of blocks of time** each week (daily if possible - but this rarely works for me) to dedicate to writing.
2. **Collaborate with others** on writing because it is funner and commitments to colleagues will motivate you to stay on task when it is hard.
3. **Banish discouraging thoughts**... I have realized that all academic writers experience difficulty and failure. Publishing comes to those who persist and don't let failure keep them down.

<https://education.byu.edu/directory/view/charles-graham>



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8. Sheila Jagannathan, The World Bank

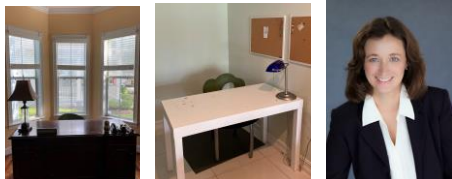
1. Outline your storyline.
2. Start strong with emotional appeal.
3. Think of catchy title and sub-titles.
4. Bring in lot of examples to make your writing come alive.
5. Add visuals to make the writing stick.
6. End with a call for action.



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9. Kira King, Director of Instructional Design and Learning Solutions, Decision Simulation

I am sending you two photos. One is of my office. You will see my "Next Window" sign. Chris got that for me when a bank was closing. I keep it there to lighten things up. I am also sending you a photo of the kids' study room. I go there if I have writer's block and need seclusion to force myself to sit, uninterrupted and focus.



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9. Kira King, Director of Instructional Design and Learning Solutions, Decision Simulation



Writing Tips:

1. **Preparation:** I prepare to write by reading all critical literature and typing relevant quotations into a Word document. The act of typing the quotes helps me create a mental schemata of the related concepts. I will then write a summary of my argument at the beginning of the document and organize key quotes into a sequence. Print out the quotation notes and have that handy for reference. Keep all other relevant literature nearby for reference.
2. **Writing:** Focus on getting words down on paper. Do not worry about getting the words just right. Use a stream of consciousness to build a moment with all relevant sources there. Getting momentum is far more important than getting the words right the first time. Editing can happen later.
3. **Final Thoughts:** As a writing tutor, I learned that often we say what we really want to say at the end of the piece—at the end of the sentence, the paragraph, or the paper. I remember that and scan my work to see if the main theme is actually at the end of what I have written. Then I revise.
4. **Writer's Block:** To cure writer's block, first try to remove yourself to a new location. Go to a place with fewer interruptions and silence your phone. Commit to writing uninterrupted. If that does not work, then go back to preparation. Re-read all relevant material and re-write notes. Then try again. Rinse and repeat.
5. (Sometimes a **glass of wine** helps too!)

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10. Brian Beatty, San Francisco State University

<https://faculty.sfsu.edu/~bjbeatty/>
<https://edd.sfsu.edu/content/bios/beatty.html>



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10. Brian Beatty, San Francisco State University

<https://faculty.sfsu.edu/~bjbeatty/>
<https://edd.sfsu.edu/content/bios/beatty.html>

1. **Office at SFSU** - this was a primary writing space during the initial phases of book writing; research and development, primarily.
2. **Bart train** - during this book project I commutes about 3 hours roundtrip every day on the train, so I used that time for writing whenever I could.
3. **Outside deck at home** - this was my main writing space on weekends and was especially useful when finishing the book project and editing the chapters contributed by others.
4. **Bonus photo** - I found a photo in my archives of your visit to SFSU in 2005 - this is a nice one of you and Kim in her office on campus.



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10. Brian Beatty and Kim Foreman, San Francisco State University



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10. Brian Beatty, San Francisco State University

<https://faculty.sfsu.edu/~bibeatty/>
<https://edd.sfsu.edu/content/bios/beatty.html>

Writing Tips:

1. Be prepared to **"write" wherever you are**; capturing ideas while they are fresh and still forming is important, no matter the form - audio, text, stories to discuss with those around you. You will have plenty of time to edit later.
2. Sometimes we write for others directly; other times we write for ourselves when we have thoughts that we just have to express. **But even when we write initially for ourselves, we need to shape that so that it benefits the reader as well.**
3. **Write to invite further engagement with your audience**; the book or article may be just the beginning of an interesting discussion with your readers.



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11. Punya Mishra, Arizona State University

Associate Dean of Scholarship and Innovation; Professor
 Rubik cube to help me fidget – as well as assorted papers etc. to doodle.
<https://education.asu.edu/about/people/punya-mishra>
<https://punyamishra.com/home/>



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11. Punya Mishra, Arizona State University

<https://education.asu.edu/about/people/punya-mishra>
<https://punyamishra.com/home/>

Writing tips:

1. **Find your voice** – even for academic writing. That is hard to do since grad school does such a wonderful job of killing any writing skills you may have come in with. **Grad school is the worst teacher of writing.** It has taken me years to find my own style and the greatest compliment I have received is something along the lines of "I could hear your voice as I was reading your paper." So strive for that.
2. **Learn to love writing. Use writing as a tool to think with.** I usually start out with a broad idea of where I want to go – and way-find through the act of writing. It reveals gaps in my thinking, weaknesses in logic and flow of ideas. None of that can be addressed without actually putting words down on screen. The trick is to start with a bad draft and then **Revise. Revise. Revise.** My pieces usually go through **20+ rounds of back and forth** between co-authors.

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11. Punya Mishra, Arizona State University

<https://education.asu.edu/about/people/punya-mishra>
<https://punyamishra.com/home/>

Writing tips:

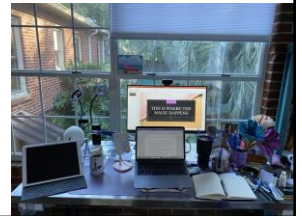
3. **Following from the previous point is the need to find good writing partners.** I have very few publications that I have written solo (maybe 2 or 3). That said finding the right writing partner is not easy. I have been superlucky in this regard first with Matt Koehler and then with Danah Henriksen. I have also had some supremely talented graduate students who have been equal partners in the writing process they include Rohit Mehta, Carmen Richardson and Melissa Warr. **Developing trust** and recognizing what they bring to the table (thus being willing to listen) is key.
4. **See each piece you write as part of a longer story.**
5. **Don't aim for perfection in each piece.** Each piece should be good – but be willing to share versions of your evolving understanding, knowing that you may revise your thoughts down the road. **One can actually track how our thinking evolved in the TPACK Framework if you look at our publications over time.** The same is for our current work on the spaces of design in education. Think of publishing as a way of making your thinking public, soliciting feedback and then going in for the next round. This keeps you honest (and also continually publishing).

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12. Vanessa Dennen, Florida State University

Professor

<https://education.fsu.edu/vanessa-dennen>



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12. Vanessa Dennen, Florida State University

Professor

<https://education.fsu.edu/vanessa-dennen>

Writing tips:

1. Let yourself **free write** and then edit later. **No text is wasted text.** It's all part of the journey.
2. **Record your presentations (audio)** and then have them **autotranscribed** (I use otter.ai). It'll give you a good base for writing the paper.
3. **Use the pomodoro technique.** Set a time for 25 minutes and do nothing but write until the timer goes off. Then if you still have energy, try another "pom" (<https://francescocirillo.com/pages/pomodoro-technique>)
4. **Write (almost) every day ...** just a little bit. If you continuously write, you **exercise the muscle**. It doesn't really matter what you write, just so long as you write.



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13. Elaine Khoo, University of Waikato, New Zealand

Attached are 2 spaces where I normally write at - my office, and on the table overlooking out onto our deck.

<https://www.waikato.ac.nz/staff-profiles/people/ekhoo>



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13. Elaine Khoo, University of Waikato, New Zealand

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<https://www.waikato.ac.nz/staff-profiles/people/ekhoo>



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13. Elaine Khoo, University of Waikato, New Zealand

<https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=kuy1wIUAAAAJ&hl=th>

Tips from me:

1. I normally **craft a draft abstract** first to pull together my thoughts on what the article is about. A good abstract is a good signpost to the article.
2. For articles reporting on empirical studies, I **start with the methods section first** before flushing out the other parts of the paper.
3. Analysis and writing go hand in hand, remember to jot notes as you are analysing your data to help you **identify themes** and your main argument.
4. For non-empirical articles, I start with **drafting the key argument** first then unpacking the rest of the paper around the key argument.
5. **Write little bits each day**, don't be afraid to **craft and revise over and over** again. No one is perfect the first time.
6. **Do not fear rejection** from publishers, try and try again.
7. Find good colleagues to collaborate with.
8. **Consider your audience and write to address** them accordingly (be it your phd examiner, book, academic article), the genre of writing can be quite different.



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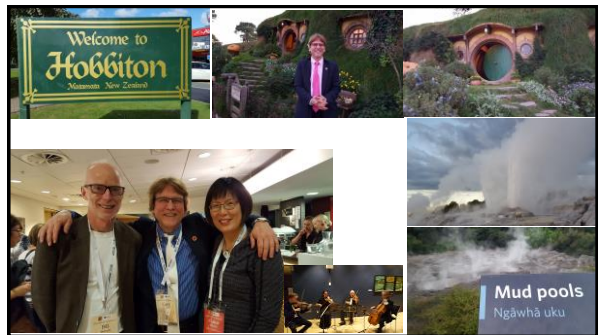
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