

## The G<sup>3</sup> of Writing and Publishing Tips: Gentle Guidelines, Great Stories, and Gigantic Scholarly Gains

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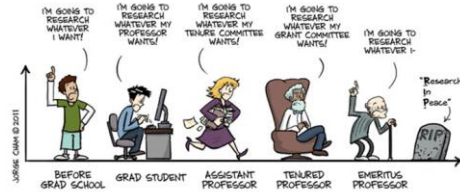
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[meinazhu@wayne.edu](mailto:meinazhu@wayne.edu)



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## Sidenote: Don't Just Publish for the Sake of Publishing...

### THE EVOLUTION OF INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM



WWW.PHDCOMICS.COM

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**February 15, 2019**

## The Hardest Part of Writing Is Restarting

Rebecca Schuman, The Chronicle of Higher Education  
<https://www.chronicle.com/article/The-Hardest-Part-of-Writing-Is/245720?cid=cp242>

A New Series on Scholarly Productivity:  
"Are You Writing?"

The Hardest Part of Writing Is Restarting



By Rebecca Schuman | 10/10/19 10:10 AM

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**March 31, 2019**

## Step Away From the Delete Button

Rebecca Schuman, The Chronicle of Higher Education  
<https://www.chronicle.com/article/Step-Away-From-the-Delete/246613?cid=cp242>

Step Away From the Delete Button



By Rebecca Schuman | 10/03/19 10:10 AM

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**June 7, 2018**

## 6 Ways to Beat Writer's Block

Rachel Tour, The Chronicle of Higher Education  
<https://www.chronicle.com/article/6-ways-to-beat-writers-block/>

1. Work up a sweat. ...
2. Take a quick trip. ...
3. Just keep at it. ...
4. Heed Anne Lamott's clarion call... "write a shitty draft first."
5. Try the "compost" method... a pile of crap can lead to something worth cultivating
6. Remind yourself that even the best writers get stuck.



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**December 11, 2020**

## How to Find a Writing Routine that Works

Manya Whitaker, The Chronicle of Higher Education  
<https://www.chronicle.com/article/how-to-find-a-writing-routine-that-works/>

1. Always work on at least 2 projects.
2. Review potential publishers and options.
3. Set a reasonable writing timeline.
4. Make a writing schedule and plan.
5. Have a project-based writing schedule.
6. Expand notion of when "writing."
7. Set time writing goals, not word goals.
8. Write what motivates you that day.
9. Establish flexible schedules.
10. Read more and edit as you go.



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**March 31, 2019**

**Step Away From the Delete Button**  
 Rebecca Schuman, The Chronicle of Higher Education  
<https://www.chronicle.com/article/Step-Away-From-the-Delete/246013?cid=cp242>

1. Ideas will be no good on first pass.
2. There are no shortcuts...even a small subsection of a manuscript takes time.
3. You will need multiple versions of almost all your sentences to lead to polished prose.
4. It takes intellectual and artistic stamina to come up with ideas are good enough for academic journals.
5. Don't let messy, gibberish words taunt and haunt you.

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**March 31, 2019**

**Step Away From the Delete Button**  
 Rebecca Schuman, The Chronicle of Higher Education  
<https://www.chronicle.com/article/Step-Away-From-the-Delete/246013?cid=cp242>

6. Write for 25 minutes 1-3 times a day for a week with deleting a single word.
7. Bracket some messages to yourself of sections that will need attention later (to calm your inner delete button).
8. Uncertain and unlikely text make a difference color.
9. After you break the habit of deleting, you can delete judiciously.
10. Trust your research and your ideas. Avoid setting standards at ridiculously high levels.

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**December 10, 2019**

**Rewarding Your Writing**  
 Leslie Leonard, Inside Higher Ed  
<https://www.insidehighered.com/blogs/gradhacker/rewarding-your-writing>



1. Track your writing. Have realistic expectations of output.
2. Find ways to mark days you have met your writing goals (e.g., stickers).
3. Writing should be enjoyable, a reward in and of itself.
4. Rewards are many: sleeping in, a fancy cup of coffee, new clothes, movie tickets, spa day, etc.
5. Have drawings for random rewards for meeting goals.

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**December 10, 2019**

**Rewarding Your Writing**  
 Leslie Leonard, Inside Higher Ed  
<https://www.insidehighered.com/blogs/gradhacker/rewarding-your-writing>



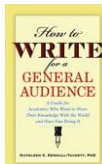
6. Let your rough drafts be rough.
7. Just write. List your goals. Get something down.
8. Use goofy fonts, nonsense words, rhymes, etc. (count these towards your writing goals and reward them). Allow any writing to count toward your goals.
9. Make the experience enjoyable with treats or fancy clothes, etc.
10. Find brief moments to write (e.g., waiting for a bus or a plane).

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**January 19, 2021**

**Writing for Diverse Audience:  
 Prewriting**

1. Ask questions about audience
2. Ask more questions about audience
3. Restate what you interpreted as the audience
4. Read, read, and read some more
5. Scan sample publications
6. Look to the popular press and news



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**January 19, 2021**

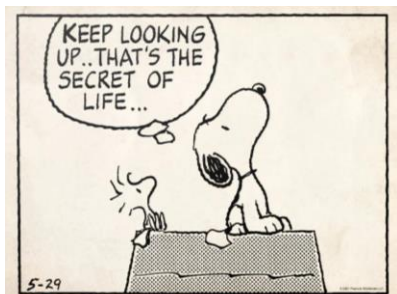
**Writing for Diverse Audience: Writing  
 Drafts**

1. Ask at least two others to read and comment.
2. Read what you wrote out loud.
3. Print it and look at it (digital versions can be misleading).
4. Simplify wording.
5. Revise and revise and revise some more.
6. Use a thesaurus.



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## Part #2. The Publication Process and Considerations



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## Put Forward your Best Work

1. Collaborative research projects
2. Literature reviews
3. Reflections/ conceptual pieces
4. Grant projects
5. Class projects



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## Finding a Journal that Fits

### What to look for?

1. Who will be your target readers?
2. Who are the authors and journals you cite the most related with your research program?
3. Is there a match between your work and the journal aims and scope?
4. What is the journal turnaround time?
5. What is the journal acceptance rate?
6. Do you know the editor(s)?



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## Where to start?

### Peer-Reviewed Journals

1. Top-tier journals: are SSCI-indexed
2. Second-tier journals: have an established history in the field
3. Third-tier journals: often are newer to the field



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## TOP-TIER JOURNALS



*British Journal of Educational Technology*



*Educational Technology Research and Development*



*The Internet and Higher Education*



*Instructional Science*

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## SECOND-TIER JOURNALS



*Journal of Educational Computing Research*



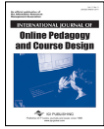
*TechTrends*



*The American Journal of Distance Education*

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## THIRD-TIER JOURNALS (often new journals)



[International Journal of Online Pedagogy and Course Design](#)



[Contemporary Issues in Technology and Teacher Education](#)



[Interactive Technology and Smart Education](#)

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## Resource and Idea Suggestions

- **Subscribe to news feeds (not too many)**
- **Save links and images to interesting articles**
- **Review saved documents for themes monthly**
- **Share those links in Facebook, Twitter, etc., for peer reactions**
- **Write to people interviewed in articles**

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## Academic Information/ Resources (Cont'd)

(Feng-Ru Sheu, Kent State University, 2018)

- **Journal selection/evaluation**
  - Impact/accreditation (\*Predatory Journals)
  - Citation index (Web of Science, Google Scholar, etc.)
  - Impact factor
  - Ranking
  - Open Access vs. non-Open Access
    - [Directory of Open Access Journals](#)
    - [Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association](#)

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## Selecting a Journal

(Feng-Ru Sheu, Kent State University, 2018)

### Be Aware Predatory Journals!



- Criteria to check the journal
  - Do you or your colleagues know the journal?
  - Can you easily identify and contact the publisher?
  - Is the journal clear about the type of peer review it uses?
  - Are articles indexed in services that you use?
  - Is it clear what fees will be charged?
  - Do you recognize the editorial board?
  - Is the Publisher a member of a recognized industry initiative?

Access the checklist in detail at <http://thinkchecksubmit.org/check/>

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## Selecting a Journal

(Feng-Ru Sheu, Kent State University, 2018)

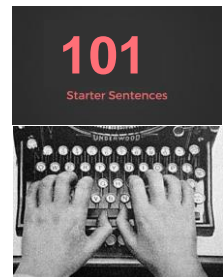
### Two resources to identify the journals and publishers

1. The Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ): <https://doaj.org/>
  - Identify legitimate and high quality open access, peer-reviewed journals
2. Beall's List of Predatory Journals and Publishers: <https://beallslist.weebly.com/>
  - Identify predatory journals/publishers

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## Generate Starter Text...

- **Author a blog**
- **Use social media**
- **Submit a conference proposal**
- **Write editorials**
- **Write book and software reviews**



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## Take the Plunge...Part 1

- Look for opportunities to create publishable manuscripts from your dissertation
- Contribute with a chapter
- Conduct an interview
- Write a practical article, newsletter, or book review



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## Take the Plunge...Part 2

- Write a major grant proposal
- Lead a special journal issue
- Edit a book
- Sole author a book
- Get your name out there!



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## Part #3. Time Out for Early Career Writing Advice



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Insights and Advice on Getting Published from a New Faculty's Perspective

**Writing Tips and Insights**

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## Writing Difficulties and Challenges of a Early Career Scholar

1. Time
2. Writing habits
3. Resources
4. Local/Global Support
5. Starter text
6. Reputation
7. Connections
8. Journal awareness
9. Energy/Stamina
10. Service/Teaching duties



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## Meina Zhu: An Early Career Perspective



1. Goals
2. Strategic Plans
3. Reflection
4. Collaborators
5. Professional Development
6. Research focus

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## 1. Writing Goals



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## 2. Strategic Plans



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## 3. Reflection on Writing



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### Ten Journal Published In (from easiest to most difficult experience)

1. Open Praxis
2. Contemporary Educational Technology
3. TechTrends
4. Turkish Online Journal of Distance Education
5. Online Learning
6. Distance Education
7. Educational Technology Research and Development
8. Education and Information Technologies
9. Journal of Computing in Higher Education
10. British Journal of Educational Technology

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## 4. Writing Collaborators



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### Writing Collaboration Advice

- Build and maintain relationship
- Respect diverse culture background and perspectives
- Provide clear guidelines and instructions to book authors at the beginning
- Respect different book chapter authors agenda

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**October 3, 2019**

**Crucial Co-Writing Considerations**  
**Jordan McNeill, Inside Higher Ed**  
<https://www.insidehighered.com/blogs/gradhacker/crucial-co-writing-considerations>

1. Clarify authorship order ahead of time.
2. Have an honest conversation about the strengths of each team member--draft, revise, proofread, and format your manuscript.
3. Be clear on division of labor.
4. Nonwriting tasks are important too--taking notes, submission guidelines, and keep track of deadlines.
5. Set up digital collaboration norms and platforms--archiving, tracking, commenting, etc.
6. Respond to feedback professionally.
7. Build in time for feedback and revision.
8. Singular voice throughout paper--assign one member of team to read for writing style and flow.

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## Meina Research Collaboration-Why?

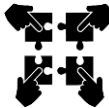
1. **Improve quality of research.**
2. **Extend research relationships and networks.**
3. **Foster interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research.**
4. **Share expertise and knowledge transfer.**
5. **Enhance scientific and publishing productivity.**
6. **Accelerate dissemination of findings for community benefit.**



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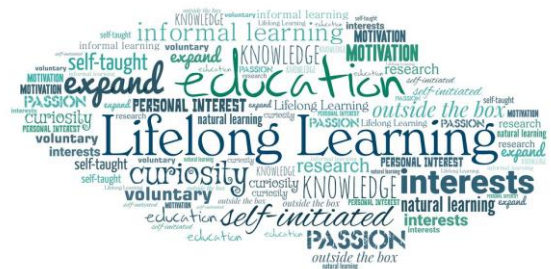
## Meina... Research Collaboration-How?

1. **Identify the skills that you can offer**
2. **Identify how the collaboration will meet your needs**
3. **Find collaborators**
4. **Introduce yourself**
5. **Set expectations at the beginning of the collaboration**
6. **Leverage tools for collaborations**
7. **Keep communicating**
8. **Do not be discouraged**



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## 5. Professional Development



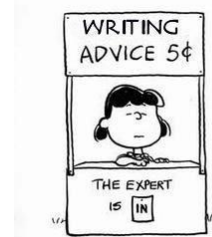
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## 6. Research Directions



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## Part #4. Time Out for Senior Revising and Publishing Advice





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**June 23, 2022**


**All writing and revision involves both Surface Level and Depth of Thought**

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**Mark the Level of Difficulty**  
**A New Series on Scholarly Productivity: 'Are You Writing?' (Oct, 4, 2018)**  
 Rebecca Shuman, The Chronicle of Higher Education  
<https://www.chronicle.com/article/A-New-Series-on-Scholarly-244689>

1. Read as peer reviewer; mark up everything.
2. Catalog problems on a 1 to 3 difficulty scale (Level 1 takes less than 30 minutes, Level 2 takes 2 hours or less; Level 3 takes more time).
3. Fix the easy ones and gain momentum for the harder ones!
4. Take breaks as needed.



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**February 12, 2019**  
**From Dreaded to Amazing**  
 Cathy N. Davidson, Inside Higher Ed  
<https://www.insidehighered.com/advice/2019/02/12/how-use-reviewers-revise-and-resubmit-comments-most-effectively-opinion>

From Dreaded to Amazing

Cathy Davidson describes how to transform your "revise and resubmit" comments from one to the other.

By Cathy N. Davidson // February 12, 2019

Perhaps the biggest turning point in my career as a researcher and writer came the day that it dawned on me that receiving a "revise and resubmit" reader's report – or any kind of professional feedback – was a gift, not a curse and a condemnation. The first few times it felt like, no matter what I did, some "authority figure" was going to tell me how wrong or bad or stupid I was. Sound familiar?



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 Cathy N. Davidson, Inside Higher Ed  
<https://www.insidehighered.com/advice/2019/02/12/how-use-reviewers-revise-and-resubmit-comments-most-effectively-opinion>

**Revise and Resubmit Steps:**

- Print out reader/ reviewer reports.
- Make 4 categories.
- Make each category its own sheet of paper.
- Keep clean copy of the manuscript.
- Make online copy; use different fonts and colors or type size or margins.

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 Cathy N. Davidson, Inside Higher Ed  
<https://www.insidehighered.com/advice/2019/02/12/how-use-reviewers-revise-and-resubmit-comments-most-effectively-opinion>

**Revise and Resubmit Steps:**

- Make revisions by hand and online.
- Keep a physical copy of the revisions.
- No. 1 Praise. I list any complimentary comments according to Reader A, Reader B or both. I put in page numbers if they are available.
- Don't touch anything the readers love (i.e., don't revise the good stuff).

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**February 12, 2019**  
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<https://www.insidehighered.com/advice/2019/02/12/how-use-reviewers-revise-and-resubmit-comments-most-effectively-opinion>

**Revise and Resubmit Steps:**

- No. 2. Fix typos, factual errors, run-on sentences, clarity points, etc. List them according to Reader A, Reader B, etc.
- Do small, easy fixable things and check off on sheet No. 2. This is a great psychological warmup.

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## February 12, 2019 From Dreaded to Amazing

Cathy N. Davidson, Inside Higher Ed

<https://www.insidehighered.com/digital-learning/article/2019/02/12/how-use-reviewer-revision-and-resubmit-comments-most-effectively-opinion>

### Revise and Resubmit Steps:

- No. 3. Attack the large, conceptual, and structural revisions. Make the revision and then show a friend the before and after and get his or her feedback. Get feedback when feel stuck.

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## Curt Bonk and Meina Zhu: Reflections on the Hot Streak 10 General Factors

1. Persistence and grit.
2. Sense of now. Focus on the moment.
3. Do things one at a time.
4. Assemble best team for you. There are many smart and kind people out there to partner with.
5. Everyone has clear role.
6. Create comfort with the people and your writing space.
7. Intense and relaxed planning.
8. Explore possible journals and commit.
9. Set bold and audacious goals.
10. Revel in good luck. Do not sulk if bad luck.

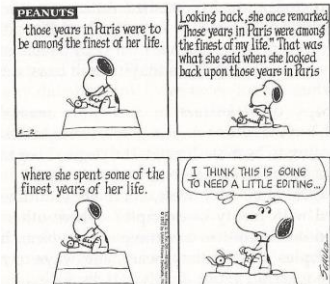
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## Curt Bonk and Meina Zhu: Reflections on the Hot Streak 10 Specific Factors

1. Plan your schedule—long view of 3-5 years!
2. Calendar view—6 monthly calendars!
3. Planner view—look at weeks, months, and years.
4. Notes in pocket view.
5. Timeline views.
6. Do move a month ahead without reflecting back.
7. Constantly track progress.
8. Discuss progress with others.
9. Be willing to say "yes." Be very willing to say "no."
10. Recheck list. Recheck goals.

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## Part #5. Time Out for Some Writing Space Advice



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## Writing Space #1: Meina Zhu, Wayne State University



My room is my writing space when it is dark outside.



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## Writing Space #2: Meina Zhu

My office is my favorite place for writing during day time: perfect temperature, big screen, and great view.



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## Writing Tools: Meina Zhu

My collaborative tools are:

- (1) Google Drive
- (2) One Drive
- (3) Mendeley



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## Plans and Goals: Meina Zhu

- Five year plans
- One year plan
- Two months plan
- Weekly plan
- Daily to do



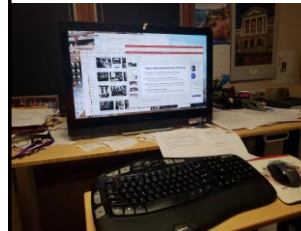
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## Writing Partners and Mentors: Meina Zhu



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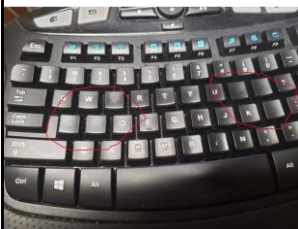
## Writing Space Curt Bonk, Indiana University



I having standing desk...power it up and down via hydraulics. And my office looks out into a forest.

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## Writing Space



One of my biggest challenges is my tendency to burn through keyboards!

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## Writing Space: Curt Bonk After Cleaning



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### Plans and Goals: Curt Bonk

How do you schedule your writing? How far in advance do you plan your writing? How do you prioritize your writing? How do you visualize your writing? Do you use a timeline or a planner? Do you have advice for developing a writing plan?

1. **Plan:** I save days for writing in my paper planner.
2. **Focus:** I say no to things that don't fit my writing plans.
3. **Track:** I note projects in process and completed in my daily Dalia Lama quote of the day.
4. **Monitor:** I look at articles I have in review, in revision, and in press in my CV all the time.
5. **Be Responsive:** I respond to co-writer requests.
6. **Goals:** Put writing plans in annual report.



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### Writing Tips: Curt Bonk

Anything special that you do?

#### My top 10 key writing tips:

1. Create a "Work" file on your desktop.
2. Save screen shots, dates, and URLs of articles.
3. Create "Articles to read" folder on your desktop.
4. Listen to audiobooks for writing ideas.
5. Watch movies & look for educational issues and ideas.
6. Always save documents at least twice.
7. Send draft of document to yourself on email...restart anywhere.
8. Ask friends to read second or third draft.
9. Save articles published by year.
10. Keep drafts of articles in special files.



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### 10 More Writing Tips: Curt Bonk

Anything special that you do?

#### My top 20 key writing tips:

11. The Collins thesaurus.
12. Look for historical info online (e.g., Wikipedia and other).
13. Relocate to another room to edit document (i.e., kitchen table).
14. Sometimes sit. Sometimes stand.
15. Print out articles that you read parts of online.
16. Review paper piles on my pool table before you write.
17. Find info and URLs in previous talk slides.
18. Almost be more optimistic than pessimistic.
19. Work when your friends and family are sleeping.
20. Wherever you are is your writing space.



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### Writing Tools: Curt Bonk

What particular writing tools do you use? How have they changed over time? What about tools for collaboration?

#### My top 10 key writing tools:

1. Keyboard—buy special letter keys
2. Microsoft Word
3. Google Search (I hate Bing)
4. Email. And forward email to self.
5. TravelinEdMan blog
6. Dropbox
7. Zoom (or Skype for team meetings)
8. Blue pens and lots of paper
9. My monster syllabus (R678)
10. FutureMe: Write a letter to yourself in the future:  
<https://www.futureme.org/>



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### Habits/Rituals/Inspiration: Writing

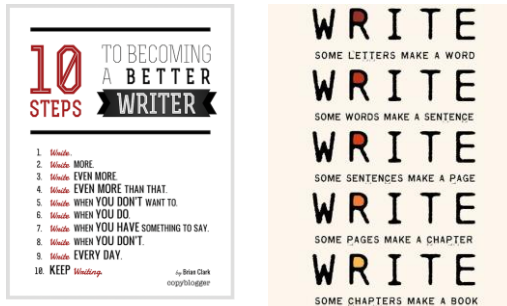
How do approach your writing tasks? Any rituals that you use and recommend for inspiration? Anything that really works for you?

1. Save writing ideas on slips of paper and look back at them.
2. Talk about your ideas.
3. Save starter text.
4. Clear email and to-do list.
5. Create checklist of plans.



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## The Top 20 Writing Tips



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## 1. Mark Writing Days in Planner



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## 2. Maintain a List and Network of Potential Research and Writing Collaborators



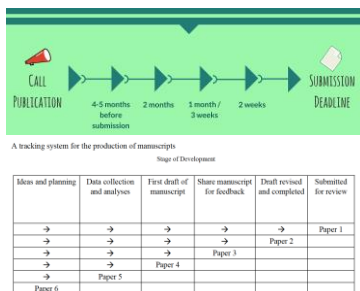
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### Sidenote: Find Good People to Work With...Life is Short—Avoid Egomaniacs and People Who Lie



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### 3. Draft a Timeline or Multiple Timelines with Flexible Goals



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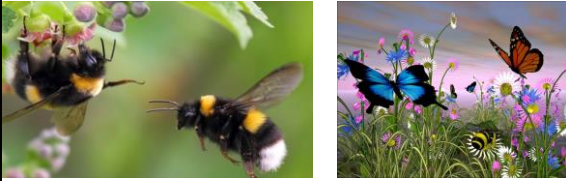
#### 4. Think Ahead About the Publishing Potential of Each Project



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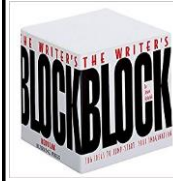


### 5. Be a Bumblebee and Butterfly



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### 6. Find, Save, and Use Starter Text (overcomes writer's block)



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### 7. Always Scan the Reference Sections of Other Articles to See What Journals are Popular



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### 8. Avoid High Quality (i.e., SSCI) Journal Fixations



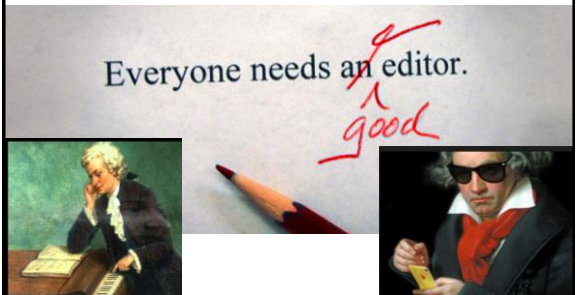
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### 9. Be Second or Third Author Sometimes to Spread Limited Resources



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### 11. Edit Your Papers a Lot! (Mozartian vs. Beethovenian)



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## 12. Organize Conference Symposia Which Can Lead to Special Journal Issues and Books



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### 13. Sponsor Visiting Scholars to Work with You; They Often Have Writing Plans



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## 14. Try to Submit or Publish Your Paper Before the Conference



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### 15. Be Creative Somewhere (e.g., unique model, figure, chart, etc.)



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## 16. Try Not to Give Up: Persistence and Grit Wins the Day



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## 17. Be Polite and Thankful to the Journal or Book Chapter Editors



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## 18. Recap Reviewer Points and How You Attempted to Address Them



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## 19. Share Your Publication Efforts (e.g., Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, email, ResearchGate, Academia.edu, etc.)



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## 20. Celebrate Your Writing Accomplishments with Friends



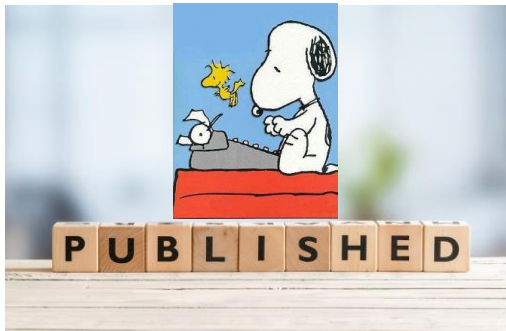
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You never know where you'll be celebrating  
your writing accomplishments...  
Even at a wedding of your nephew!



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What will you do...?



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Concerns?  
Comments?  
Commitments?

Curt Bonk, IU, Email: [cjbonk@Indiana.edu](mailto:cjbonk@Indiana.edu)  
Meina Zhu, WSU, Email: [meinazhu@wayne.edu](mailto:meinazhu@wayne.edu)  
Slides: <http://www.trainingshare.com>



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