

The G³ of Writing and Publishing Tips: Gentle Guidelines, Great Stories, and Gigantic Scholarly Gains

Curtis J. Bonk, Ph.D., Indiana University

cjbonk@indiana.edu

Meina Zhu, Ph.D., Wayne State University

meinazhu@wayne.edu



INDIANA UNIVERSITY



1

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



2



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

Writing Tips and Insights

3

Meina Zhu: An Early Career Perspective

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



4

1. Writing Goals



5

2. Strategic Plans



6

3. Reflection on Writing



7

4. Writing Collaborators



8

October 3, 2019

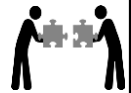
Crucial Co-Writing Considerations
Jordan McNeill, Inside Higher Ed
<https://www.insidehighered.com/digital-graduate-education/2019/10/03/co-writing-considerations>

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.

9

Meina Research Collaboration-Why?

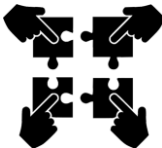
1. Improve quality of research
2. Extend research relationships and networks
3. Foster interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research
4. Share expertise and knowledge transfer
5. Enhance scientific and publishing productivity
6. Accelerate dissemination of findings for community benefit



10

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



11

5. Sometimes you have to contact the editor...

Asia Pacific Journal of Education

Structural relationships among self-regulation, transactional distance, and learning engagement in a large university class using flipped learning

Min Young Do, Curtis J. Bonk, Chang Ho Shin & Beo-Die Woo

To cite this article: Min Young Do, Curtis J. Bonk, Chang Ho Shin & Beo-Die Woo (2021) Structural relationships among self-regulation, transactional distance, and learning engagement in a large university class using flipped learning, Asia Pacific Journal of Education, DOI: 10.1080/18751387.2021.1932020

Published online: 23 Oct 2021

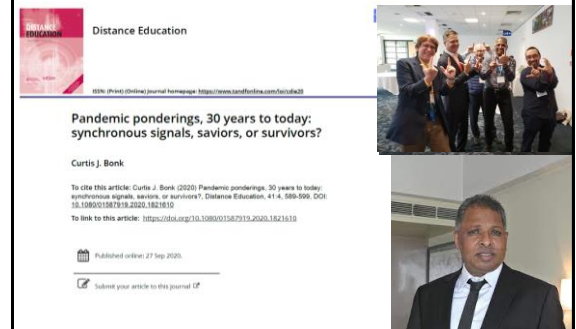
12

6. Sometimes you have to send to an easier journal...



13

7. Sometimes you're invited...



14

8. Mark the Level of Difficulty A New Series on Scholarly Productivity: 'Are You Writing?'

Rebecca Shuman, The Chronicle of Higher Education
<https://www.chronicle.com/article/A-New-Series-on-Scholarly-Productivity/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.



15

9. Generate Starter Text...

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



16

March 31, 2019 10. 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>



By Rebecca Schuman | 10/10/19 | 2019

17

Sometimes There's a Hot Streak:



18

Curt Bonk: Reflections on the Hot Streak



1. Persistence and grit.
2. Sense of now.
3. One at a time.
4. Assemble best team for you. Find comfort.
5. Intense and Relaxed Planning.
6. Explore Possible Journals and Commit.
7. Everyone has clear role.
8. Set bold and audacious goals.
9. Recheck list. Recheck goals.
10. Revel in good luck. Do not sulk if bad luck.

19

Writing Space #1: Meina Zhu, Wayne State University



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



20

Writing Space #2: Meina Zhu

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



21

Writing Tools: Meina Zhu

My collaborative tools are:

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



22

Plans and Goals: Meina Zhu

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



23

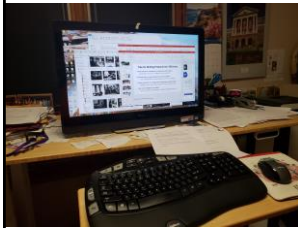
Writing Partners and Mentors: Meina Zhu



24

Writing Space

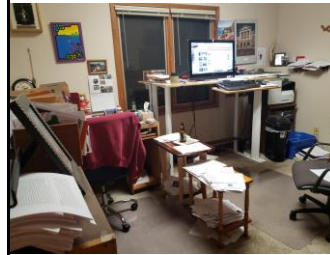
Curt Bonk, Indiana University



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

25

Writing Space: Curt Bonk



My office. I save interesting articles to later reference in papers and books.

26

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.



27

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.



28

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.



29

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.



30

Finding a Journal that Fits

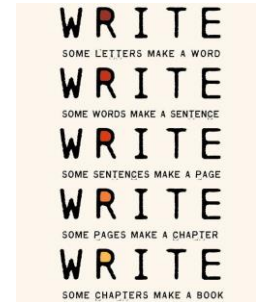
What to look for?

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)?



31

The Top 15 Writing Tips



32

1. Mark Writing Days in Planner



33

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



34

3. Draft a Timeline or Multiple Timelines with Flexible Goals



A tracking system for the production of manuscripts
Stage of Development

Ideas and planning	Data collection and analysis	First draft of manuscript	Share manuscript for feedback	Draft revised and completed	Submitted for review
→	→	→	→	→	Paper 1
→	→	→	→	→	Paper 2
→	→	→	→	→	Paper 3
→	→	→	→	→	Paper 4
→	→	→	→	→	Paper 5
→	→	→	→	→	Paper 6

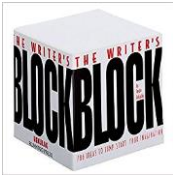
35

4. Think Ahead About the Publishing Potential of Each Project



36

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



37

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



38

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



39

8. Be Second or Third Author Sometimes to Spread Limited Resources



40

9. Try to Submit or Publish Your Paper Before the Conference



41

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



42

