Launching Our Summer Writing Projects: A Workshop for New Faculty

Carol Severino, Professor of Rhetoric, Writing Center
What we’ll do:

1) Look at some research on successful faculty writers and their habits in 4 key areas: behavioral, artisanal, social, and emotional.
2) Discuss how to mark your calendars and set your goals.
3) Resources for Writing.
Research on (and inspiration from) the habits of successful faculty writers:
Sword’s Research:

- In-depth interviews with 100 academic authors.
- Questionnaire responses from 1,223 additional academic authors.
BASE: Behavioral, Artisanal, Social, and Emotional Habits (Sword, 2017, p. 4)

**BEHAVIORAL**: Successful writers carve out time and space for their writing in a striking variety of ways, but they do it somehow. Key habits of mind: persistence, passion, pragmatism, “grit.”

**ARTISANAL/CRAFT**: Successful writers recognize writing as an artisanal activity that requires ongoing learning, development, and skill. Key habits of mind: creativity, craft, artistry, patience, practice, perfectionism [but not too much!], a passion for lifelong learning.

**SOCIAL**: Successful writers seldom work entirely in isolation; even in traditionally “sole author” disciplines, they typically rely on other people—colleagues, friends, family, editors, reviewers, audiences, students—to provide them with support and feedback. Key habits of mind: collegiality, collaboration, generosity, openness to both criticism and praise.

**EMOTIONAL**: Successful writers cultivate modes of thinking that emphasize pleasure, challenge, and growth. Key habits of mind: positivity, enjoyment, satisfaction, risk taking, resilience, luck.

- Everyone is stronger in some areas than others, which still allows for success (productivity and pleasure)!
- Q for the chat: How do you think you might you build more persistence, craft, social support and/or enjoyment into your own writing?
Later: Find your profile. Go to www.writersdiet.com/base

Are you a pebble, a rock, a lone wolf?
Mark your summer calendar (May, June, July, August) to make time to write:

- What time of day are you most productive?
- Which days/weeks are for students, family, trips, vacations, breaks, recharging, etc.? Block them out on your calendar.
- Break your project into steps—e.g., research, notetaking, outlining, drafting, sharing with others. How many hours and days do you estimate each step will take?
- For each step and writing session, set goals and assess your progress in relation to them. Was your goal too ambitious? Too modest?
- Keep a log/journal of your goals and your progress toward them.
- Give yourself a small reward when you’ve completed a step, a big reward when you’ve completed a project.
- What tips do you have for each other based on your experience? Put in chat.
Resources for the Summer:

Writingcenter.uiowa.edu: 50-minute appointments once a week; as needed appointments; and document review.

The Writing Center’s Virtual Write On Group for Accountability. Email writing-center@uiowa.edu if you’d like to join.

Obermann Summer/Fall Faculty Writing Groups Survey Respond by this Friday.
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1qScTEMjMy94IHTaRljPr04zGsV7vfuNmAAmk4K_JB3g/edit?ts=62728801

Naomi Greyser’s Video on Writing Groups, from Obermann’s Get It Done Program:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ReaBFutsGAM&t=1s

National Center for Faculty Development and Diversity: https://www.facultydiversity.org/
And a Wonderful Guidebook: