

Writing for Publication

A Presentation for IUP Teacher/Scholars

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Questions, Answers, and Practical Advice about Scholarly Writing

1. ***What should I write about?*** Reflect on your strengths rather than following trends. Explore the intersection of your academic degrees, interests, and practical work experience; this is the most fertile area for innovative thinking. Take the long view and write about what you see on the horizon. Consider your audience and strive to be helpful and informative. Before you begin, ask yourself this question that is relevant to all writers of nonfiction: “Why bring this information and this audience together at this time?”

Suggestion: Plan the conference session, article, or book that you wish you had experienced before you started investigating the topic. Seek out “paper mentors” and webinars that offer advice.

2. ***How do I find the time?*** What if you were awarded a contract and guaranteed that your writing would be published? Would you find the time then? If so, the underlying issue is fear of failure rather than lack of time. No one “gives” you time to write, at least at first

The Take Away Message:

Publishing should not be viewed as shameless self-promotion or the antithesis of a commitment to teaching. Throughout the world, professors have the obligation to teach, conduct research, and be of service to the university and the larger community. Being an effective teacher and a responsible community member are necessary and important; however, they are not sufficient to fulfill the teacher/scholar role. When we accepted the role of professor, we agreed to enter the professional dialogue through research and scholarship. Scholarly writing can keep us current, satisfy our need to create, build new networks of respected colleagues, enrich and enlarge our teaching, open the door to professional development opportunities, and allow us to make a contribution to our chosen fields.

Recommended Resources

- Belcher, W. L. (2009). *Writing your journal article in twelve weeks: A guide to academic publishing success*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
- Boice, R. (1990). *Professors as writers: A self-help guide to productive writing*. Stillwater, OK: New Forums Press.
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- Johnson, W. B., & Mullen, C. A. (2007). *Write to the top! How to become a prolific academic*. London, England: Palgrave/Macmillan.
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- Lovitts, B. E. (2008). The transition to independent research: Who makes it, who doesn't, and why. *The Journal of Higher Education, 79*(3), 296-325.
- Luey, B. (2009). *Handbook for academic authors* (5th ed.). New York, NY: Cambridge University Press.
- Luey, B. (2007). *Revising your dissertation: Advice from leading editors*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.
- MacDonald, S. P. (2009). *Professional academic writing in the humanities and social sciences*. Normal, IL: Southern Illinois University Press.

