

Getting Graduate Students Started on Writing Groups: Developing a Context-Specific Plan

Tetyana Bychkovska | tbychkov@gmu.edu and Susan Lawrence | slawrenb@gmu.edu
The Writing Center | George Mason University

“ I am not exaggerating when I say that when I finish my dissertation it will be mostly due to the write-together group. ”

“ The writing group helps me focus my whole week around what to bring to our Friday session. This event is the single most important thing I do for my research and writing. ”

3 STEPS FOR LAUNCHING WRITING GROUPS

STEP 1: CHOOSE A FORMAT

Accountability Group

Writers meet to discuss progress on their writing

Feedback Group

Writers provide and discuss feedback on one or more writers' drafts

Write-Together Group

Writers set writing goals at the beginning of the meeting and spend several hours writing

STEP 2: PLAN LOGISTICS

- When, where, and how often will the groups meet?
- How many members can participate in a group?
- What is the role of the facilitator in this group?
- How should a typical meeting be structured?
- What are the deadlines and policies for attendance?
- For feedback groups: How are drafts shared? What is the target document length?

STEP 3: POSITION STUDENT WRITERS TO LEAD GROUPS

- Participants collectively set policies and norms
- Lines of accountability are to each other
- Encourage peer mentorship among participants



Take a picture to find more details and resources