**Productive Writing**

*for Graduate Students with Goals for Starting or Completing a Proposal, Thesis, Dissertation, Manuscript, Paper...*

**Strategies to help you overcome obstacles and become a more productive writer.**

**Try one of these. If it works for you, make it a habit.**

1. Write every day.
2. Schedule your writing time.
3. The earlier in the day the better.
4. Write in 90-minute blocks.
5. Can’t find 90 minutes? Write for 15 minutes.
6. Set a goal. Small. Measurable. Something you can do in you writing time today.
7. Think forward and plan backwards.
8. Write bad first drafts. (You’ll revise later.)
9. Make two lists before you start writing. (And a third when you stop.) The first list is everything you must do AFTER you finish your writing today. Write it down then don’t let these things distract you while you write. Your second list is everything else you must do today to keep your project moving forward. Like: Reading. Editing. Analyzing data. Finding more articles. Talking to your advisor. And the third list? See No. 20 below.
10. Remove/reduce/avoid distractions.
11. Don’t stop writing when it’s hard.
12. Don’t stop writing when it’s easy.
13. Do not binge write.
14. Your scheduled writing time should be writing new words. (Not editing.)
15. Find a place to write…anywhere.
16. Use deadlines to your advantage.
17. Don’t wait for inspiration.
18. Begin to write before you feel ready.
19. Develop outlines or chapter summaries.
20. When you stop, make a list of what comes next.
21. If you don’t know how to start, then start in the middle.
22. Don’t write and edit at the same time.
23. “There is no writing…only re-writing.”
24. Don’t call it writer’s block. Overcome writer’s block by writing.
25. Write until you are in the “flow” … then keep writing.
26. Make yourself accountable.
27. Use a writing support group or writing partner.
28. Write with others if it helps you.
29. Get feedback. It’s a gift. So be grateful.
30. Request feedback from your advisor by asking specific questions.
31. In challenging times, keep writing. Writing can become part of your routine
32. and bring some normalcy, provide a sense of accomplishment, and move your manuscript to completion. Even in times of uncertainty, you can write. You are a writer.