 

Early Career Development Council

**Writing Accountability Group (WAG)**

WAGS ARE A MEANS FOR FACULTY MEMBERS TO FOSTER PRODUCTIVE WRITING HABITS!

# What is a Writing Accountability Group?

A writing accountability group is a group of people who meet once a week to write and generate achievable writing goals for the time between meetings. Writing accountability groups are not social hours, sounding boards, peer review groups, workshops, or other kinds of writing exchange.

# How are WAG sessions structured?

The agenda for each weekly session is the same:

1. In the first 5-10 minutes, each member shares his/her goals for the session.
2. Members spend 45 minutes working on a writing product in silence. The WAG leader is the timekeeper and will notify the members when the time ends.
3. In the final 5-10 minutes, each member reports whether and why not their goals were met and discuss their objectives for the following week between WAG sessions.

# What goals are set?

Each participant should articulate two goals each week:

1. A goal for the WAG session that can be accomplished in 45 minutes
   * Note: If a member has difficulty identifying a goal for the session, email the WAG leader in advance or come to the session a few minutes early to discuss.
2. A goal for the writing time in between sessions
   * Include the content for the specific project/portion of a project that the member intents to work on during writing time that week
   * Include the schedule for writing in that week (i.e., how often and how much time). Members should consider dedicated writing time as an inflexible appointment with themselves to work on writing

# Who may join a Writing Accountability Group?

Any post-doc and early career faculty (i.e., those at the rank of Assistant Professor, Research Scientist, and Research Assistant Professor) may join a WAG.

# Why should I join a Writing Accountability Group?

WAGs provide a unique opportunity for faculty members to make substantial progress towards their writing goals in a supportive peer environment. WAG members will achieve increased writing productivity (quantity and quality), have greater control over the writing process, experience improved goal-setting and time management, and establish relationships with new colleagues.

# How do I join a Writing Accountability Group?

WAGs are organized at the start of each fall and spring semester. Look for an email from Rhonda Arthur at [earlycareer@unthsc.edu.](mailto:earlycareer@unthsc.edu)

# What are the expectations of WAG members?

WAG members must commit to *showing up* and *participating*. Members should make it a priority to attend every session, but not miss more than two sessions. If a member anticipates being absent, he/she should contact the WAG leader. Members should arrive on time to maximize his/her productivity and avoid anything that may distract him/her from writing (i.e., phone calls, text, emails). WAG members should come prepared by identifying projects in stages that require writing. Also, WAG members will be asked to complete a pre- and post-WAG survey to evaluate the effectiveness and areas of improvement. This helps ensure that WAG sessions continue to meet the needs of HSC post-docs and early career faculty.

**QUESTIONS? EMAIL:** [**EARLYCAREER@UNTHSC.EDU**](mailto:EARLYCAREER@UNTHSC.EDU)