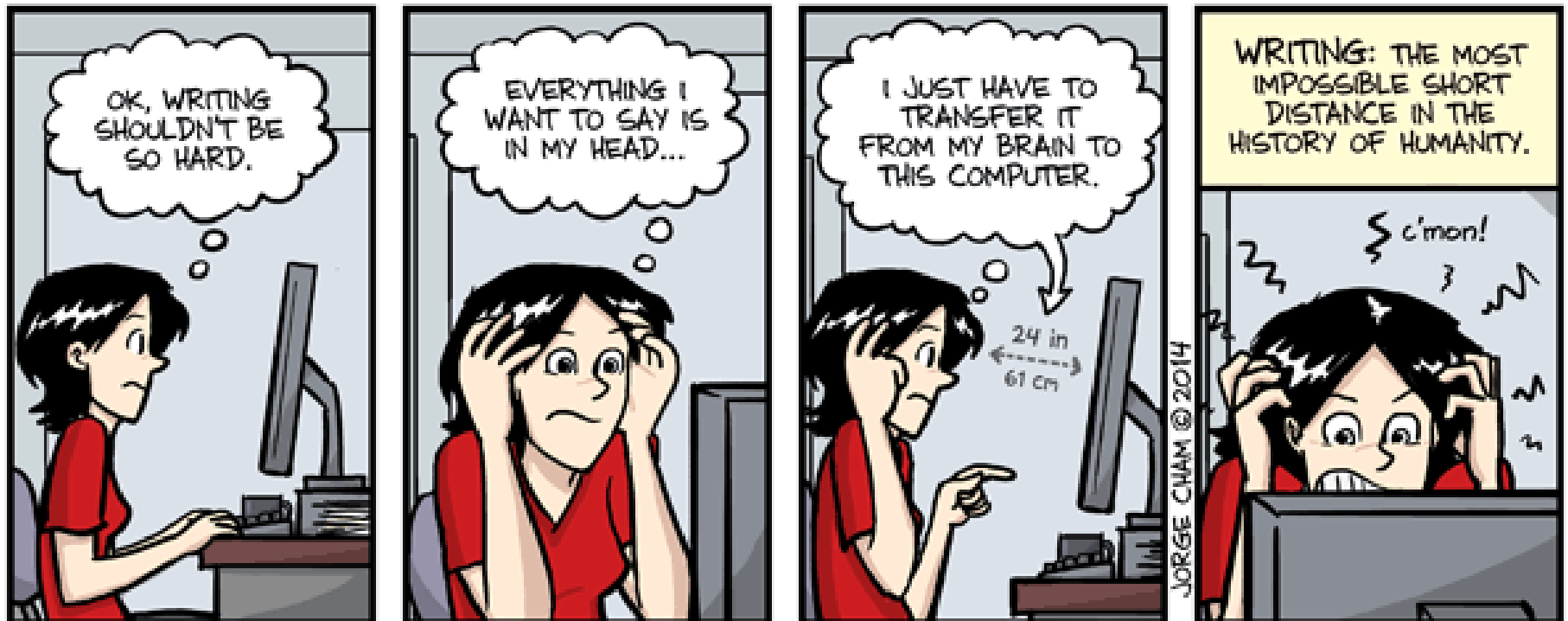


Research Productivity: Developing and Advancing Writing Strategies

Bryn Harris, PhD
Associate Professor
School Psychology Program

“Writing my first academic article feels like dancing around naked”

(Turner, Brown, & Edwards-Jones, 2013)





Habits of Highly Productive Scholars

#1: Have a niche and pipeline

#2: Study outlets and process

#3: Setting goals & Structure time

#4: Master writing and style

#5: Revise and resubmit promptly

#6: Continually develop expertise

**#7:
Collaboration**

#8: Mentoring



Think-Pair-Share

What obstacles hinder your writing?



THE POWER OF COLLABORATION

Table 3

Ranking of the Top 25 School Psychology Faculty by Scholarly Productivity Between 2005 and 2009

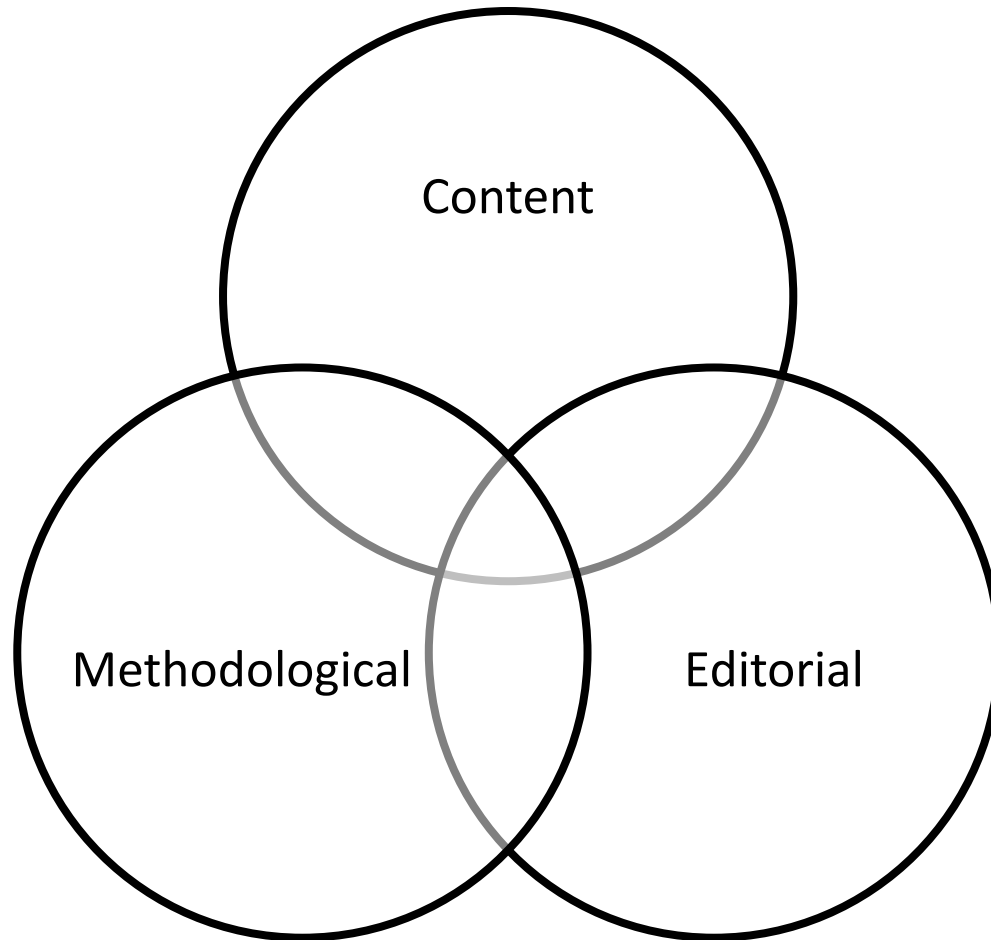
Rank	Author	University	Total Authorship Credit	Total Articles	Single Author Articles	First Author Articles
1	Matthew Burns	University of Minnesota	18.88	40 (1)	3	21
2	George DuPaul	Lehigh University	12.65	33 (3)	2	12
3	Frank Worrell	California, Berkeley	10.06	20 (9)	4	11
4	Sheri Bauman	University of Arizona	9.92	15 (24)	6	10
5	Theodore Christ	University of Minnesota	9.87	21 (8)	2	12
5	Scott Huebner	University of South Carolina	9.87	31 (5)	0	4
7	David Miller	SUNY – Albany	9.65	19 (12)	3	13
8	Sandra Chafouleas	University of Connecticut	9.40	33 (3)	0	10
9	Thomas Dishion	University of Oregon	9.21	35 (2)	0	3
10	Frank Gresham	Louisiana State University	8.58	17 (21)	5	9
11	Christopher Skinner	University of Tennessee	8.01	27 (6)	0	3
12	Jeffrey Deverensky	McGill University	7.54	24 (7)	0	4
13	Amanda Nickerson	University of Albany	7.33	18 (19)	0	9
14	Thomas Oakland	University of Florida	7.13	18 (19)	0	8
15	Edward Shapiro	Lehigh University	6.96	14 (26)	2	7
16	David Wodrich	Arizona State University	6.93	12 (33)	2	9
17	Shannon Suldo	University of South Florida	6.92	19 (12)	0	11
18	Jeffrey Tiger	Louisiana State University	6.89	19 (12)	0	10
19	Patricia Lowe	University of Kansas	6.87	12 (33)	2	10
20	Thomas Kratochwill	Wisconsin–Madison	6.83	19 (12)	2	5
21	Tanya Eckert	Syracuse University	6.80	20 (9)	1	5
22	Jonathan Campbell	University of Georgia	6.61	11 (38)	3	7
23	Andrew Davis	Ball State University	6.52	13 (28)	2	9
24	Jan Hughes	Texas A&M University	6.51	19 (12)	0	7
25	Scott Ardoin	University of Georgia	6.37	13 (28)	1	9

Note. Numbers in parentheses indicate rank based on total articles produced.

Collaborative Research Projects: Helpful Strategies

- Writing retreats (can be lots of different formats!)
- Writing meetings
- Partnered writing
- Accountability checks
- Research check-ins

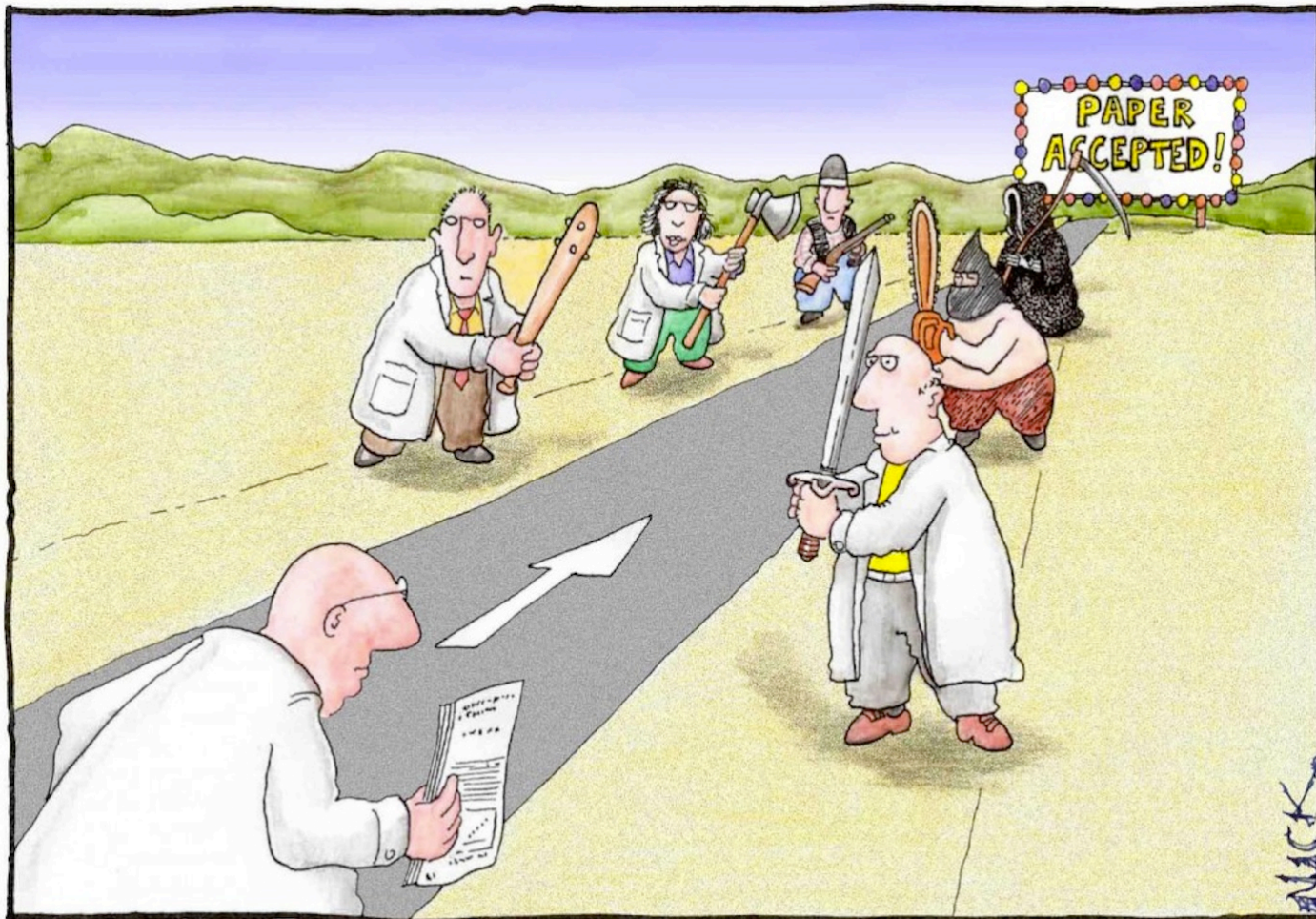
Collaborative Writing - Types of Expertise





OBTAINING MENTORS FOR COLLABORATIVE & PRODUCTIVE WRITING

Why seek out a mentor? Tends to improve the path to publication

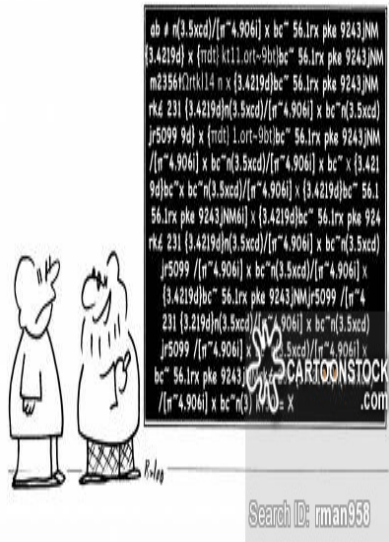


Most scientists regarded the new streamlined peer-review process as "quite an improvement."

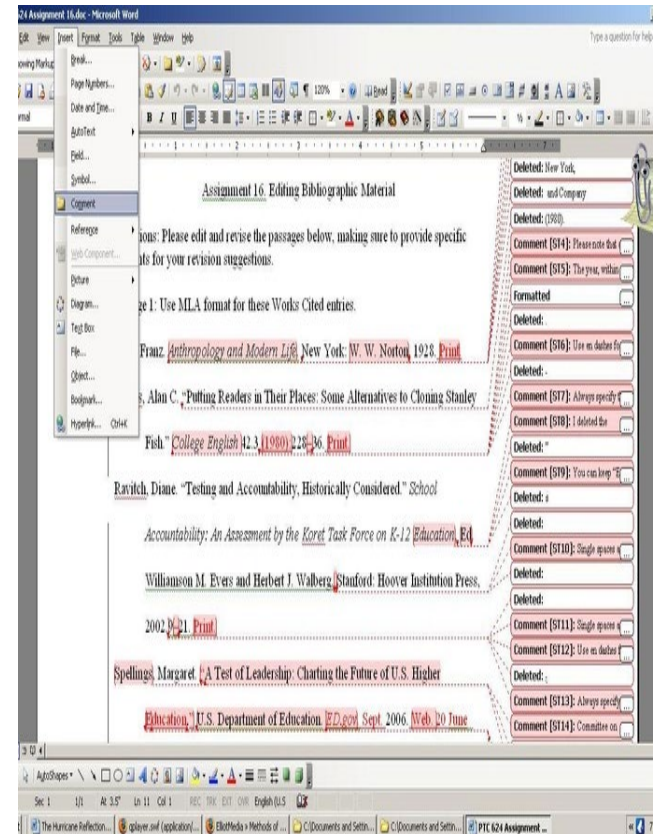
The Mentoring Process

- Defined by types of support provided

(Eby, Rhodes, & Allen, 2007)



"It's a foolproof formula for writing grant applications."





DEVELOPING A RESEARCH AGENDA & GOOD WRITING HABITS

Developing Your Niche via a Research Agenda

What Is a Research Agenda?

- A coordinated set of related research projects
- A cohesive sequencing of studies

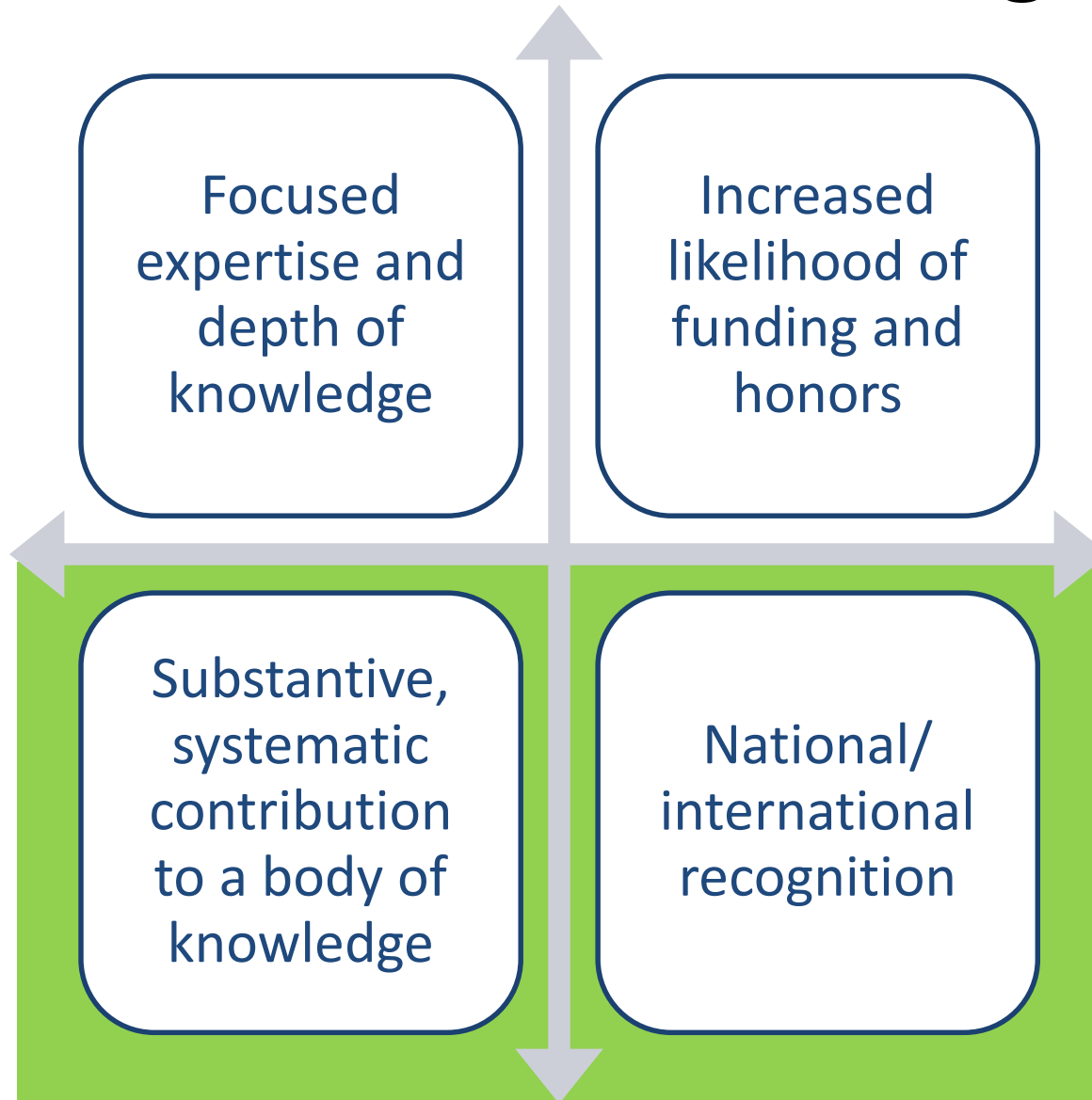
How Do You Identify Your Research Agenda?

- Interests
- Expertise
- Resources

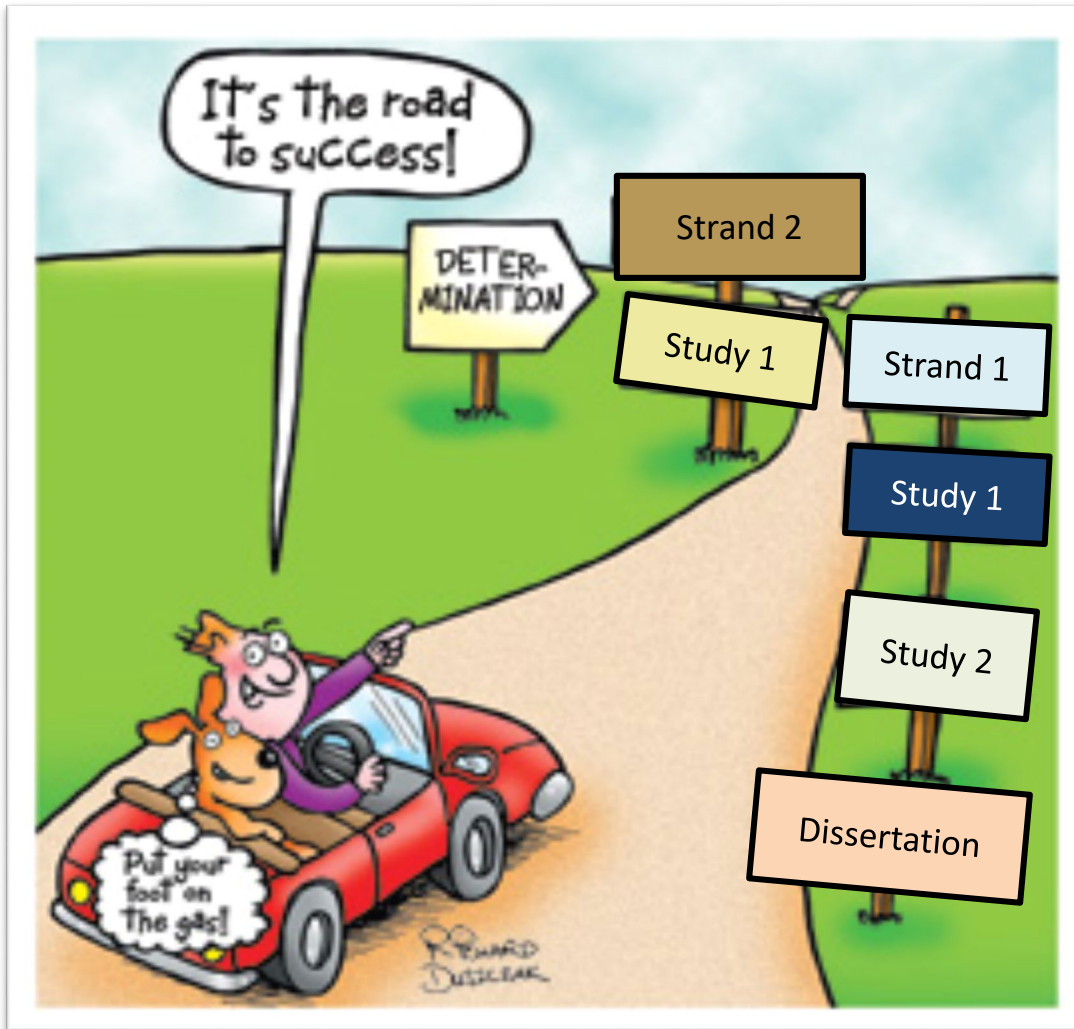
Who Do You Develop It?

- Conduct the studies
- WRITE!

The Value of a Cohesive Agenda



Your Agenda Is Your Roadmap



What have you done?

What are you doing now?

Where are you going in the future?

What is the context of your work?

What contribution does it make?



Questions to Consider in Planning an Agenda

Step 1

- What is the overarching theme of all of your research or scholarly activity?

Step 2

- What are the major topics that you will pursue over the next 3-5 years?
- What are the particular topic(s) within your theme to which you plan to devote significant effort now or in the near future?

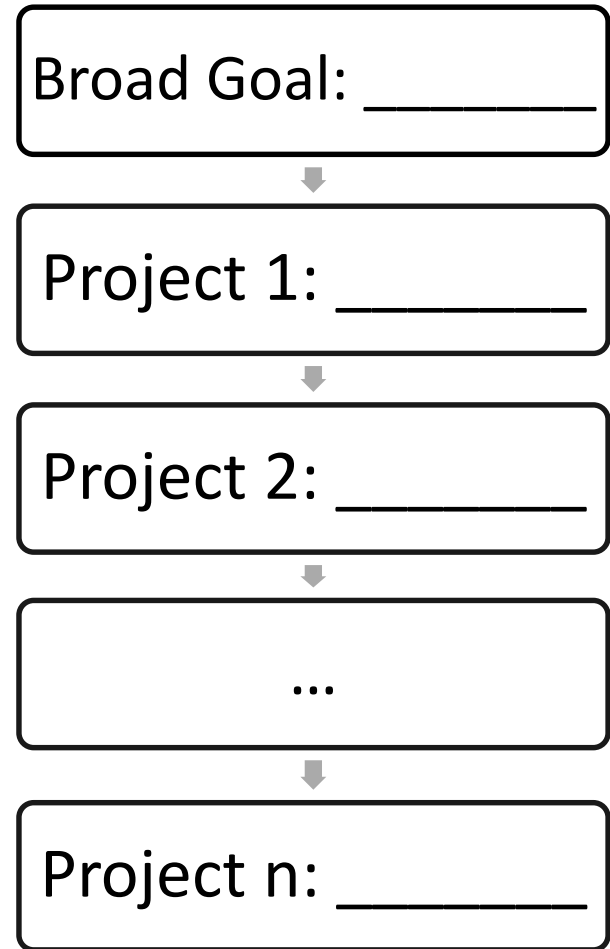
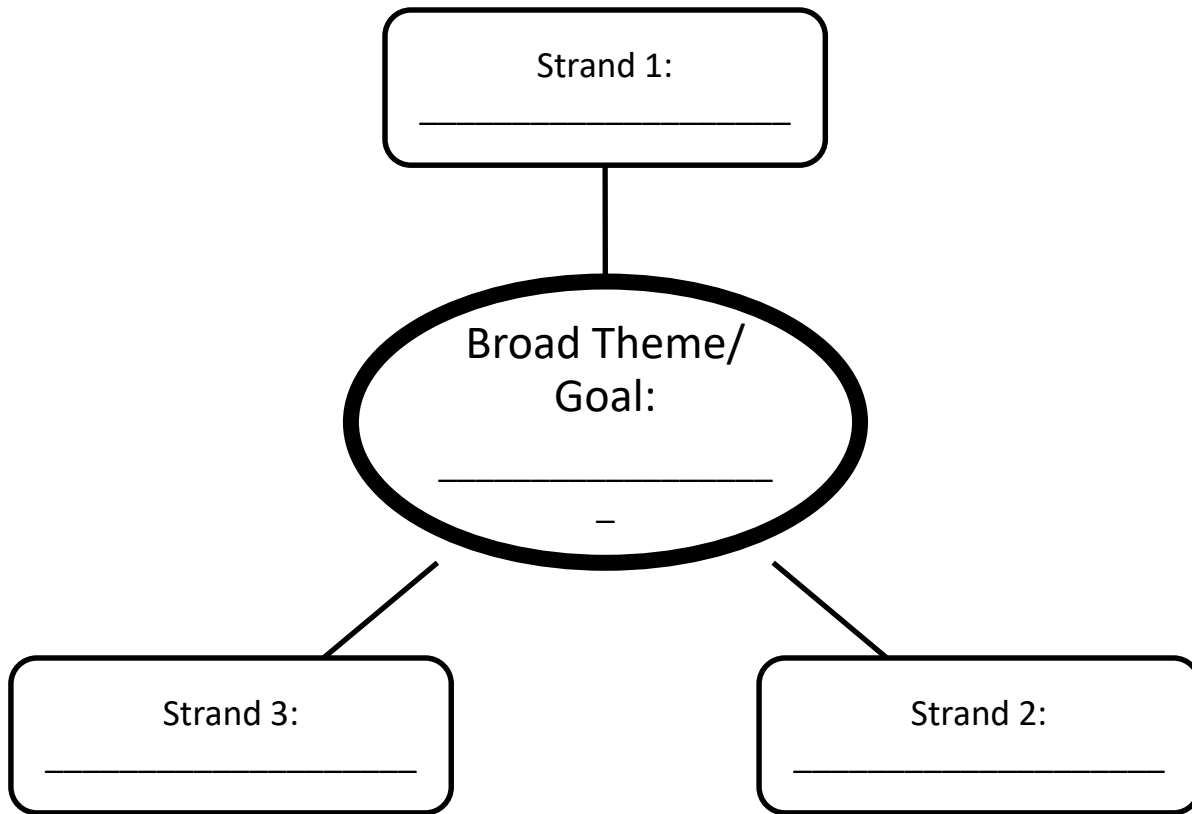
Step 3

- What resources will you need to conduct this research?
- What additional knowledge will you need?
- What collaborators should you seek?
- What mentoring do you need/want?

Step 4

- What are the products that you want to produce within each topic?
- How are these products related? Do they naturally fall into a sequence that builds upon itself, or do they form a cluster around the central topic?
- How will each of these be evaluated towards future promotion?

Diagram It



Use your concept map as the basis for a detailed research statement, brief summary, and elevator speech.

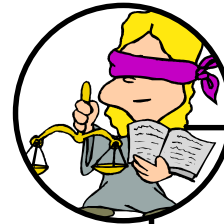
Develop a Pipeline: Productivity Requires Momentum



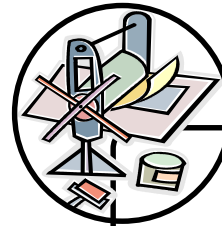
In Development



In Progress/
Revision



Under Review



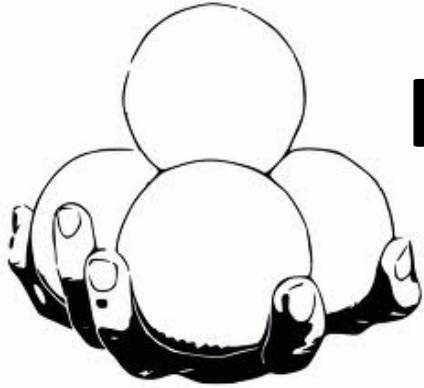
In Press



Plan and Keep Track

Strand	Study	Collaborators	Product/ Target Outlet	Status

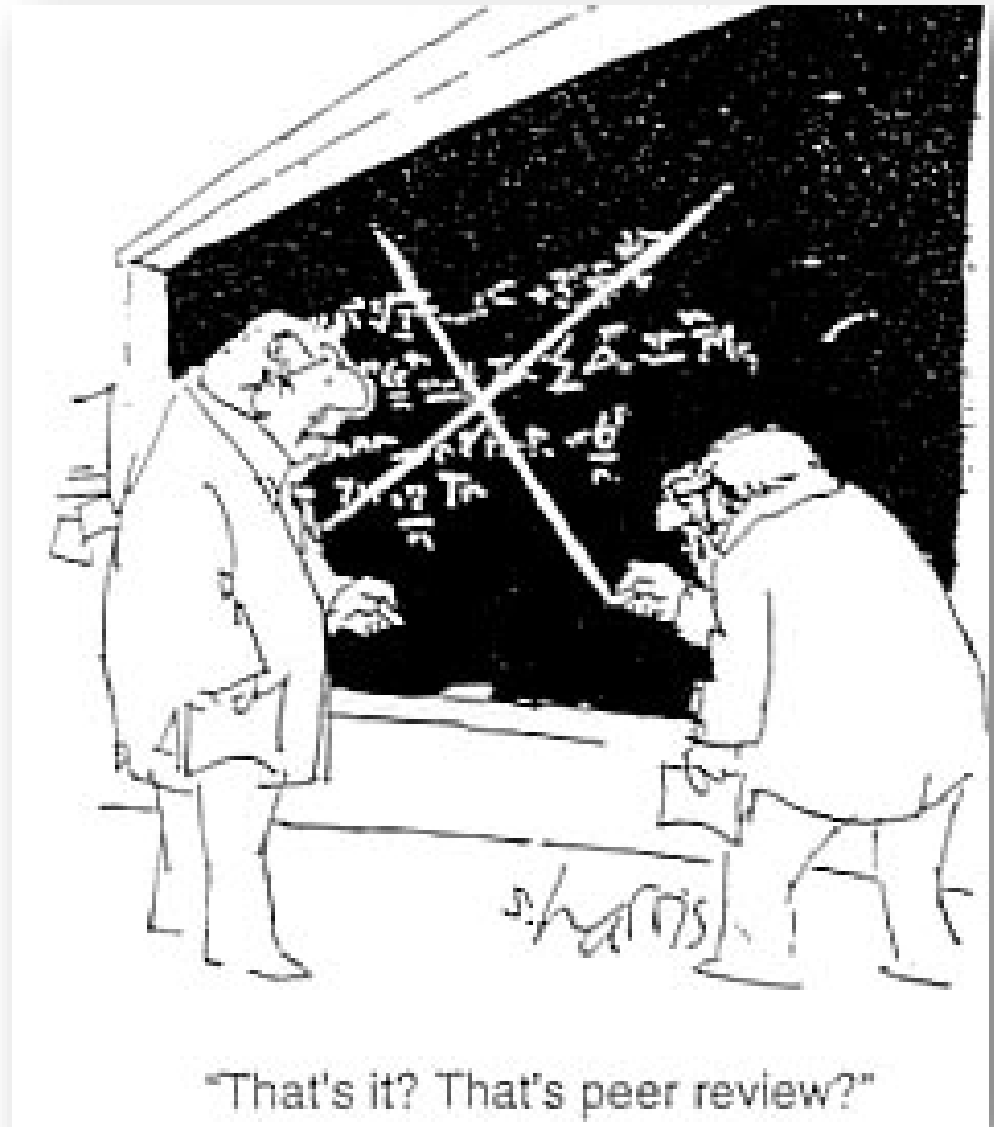
- Excel sheet
- Google doc
- Trello/Project management software
- Physical board



Know How Products Are Valued

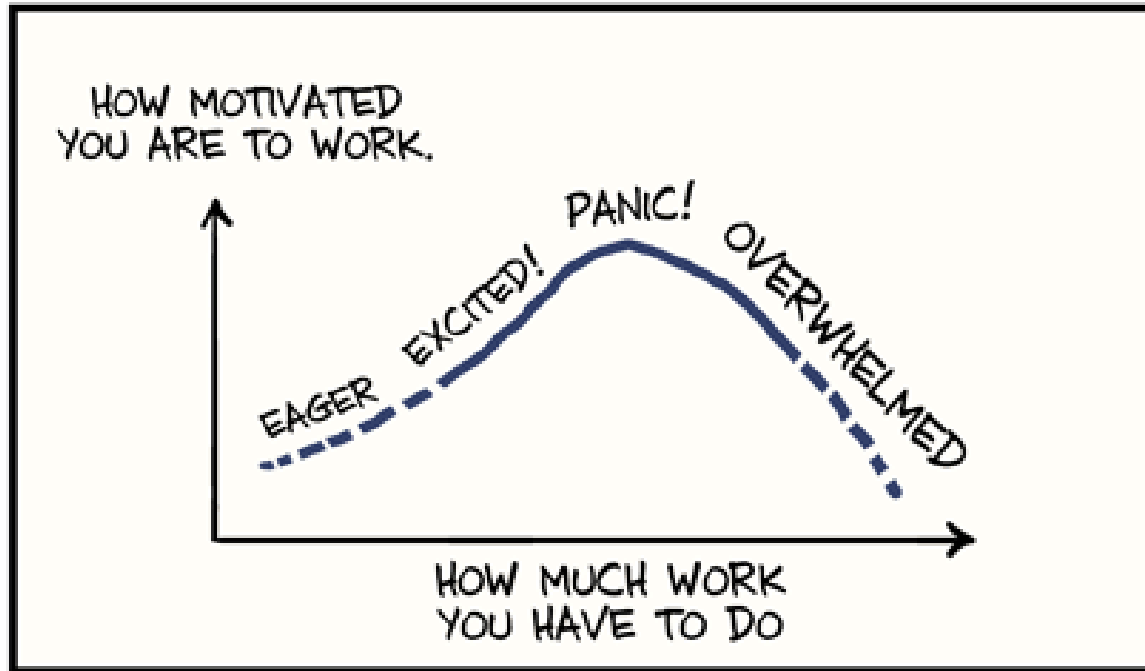
- Peer-reviewed publications
- Book chapters
- Books
- Conference presentations
- Abstracts
- White papers
- Technical reports
- Manuals
- Book reviews
- Newsletter articles

- Authorship
- Empirical v. Conceptual v. Review
- Journal Reputation/ Ranking
- Rejection Rates
- Impact Factors
- Citations Indices



Small Group Discussion

How do you study research outlets?



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Goal Setting

Handout 1: Backward Planning Projects

Project:	Target Outlet:
2. Major Milestones	3. Target Date
1. Target Project Completion Date	

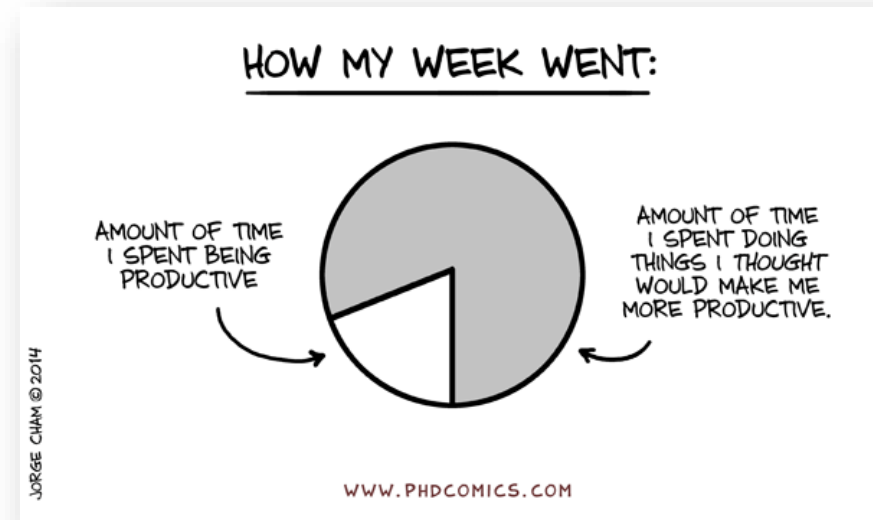


Worksheet 2: Structuring Writing Time

When will you write?	
Where will you write?	
How will you protect your writing time?	
What materials/ resources do you need?	
What are your micro-goals (e.g., daily/weekly)	
How will you be kept accountable?	
What are your rewards/treats?	

Sample Accountability Tools

- [Rescue Time](#)
- [Excel](#)
- [Emergent Task Tracker](#)
- [Yast](#)



- Prevent Distractions
 - Google Chrome Block Site, StayFocusd Extensions
 - [Cold Turkey](#)
 - [Write Monkey](#)

Other Strategies I Use

- Structure time
 - Write in service, research, and teaching into my schedule
 - Review these tasks each week, monitor time
- Submit to special issues with deadlines
- When a paper is taking longer than it should, submit it for a presentation
- Choose service wisely
 - Ask for mentorship
 - Never say “yes” right away
- “Black shoe” phenomenon

Strategies (cont.)

- Mentor students toward publishing Capstones and other research projects
- Bring in others (students, junior faculty etc.)
 - Reframe: You may be giving them an extremely valuable experience that would not have been available
- Sunday evening focus time
- Be kind to yourself!
 - Flexibility is important
 - "Seasons" when I am most productive

Alignment Efforts that Support Research

- Created a bilingual training program
 - Allowed me to create three courses that directly align to my research interests
- When my kids are home, spend time with them, try to separate work from family
- Turn teaching assignments or pedagogy into research
- Service endeavors
 - National committees that enabled me to meet possible mentors and distinguished faculty members
 - Limit school/university service, pick committees that are more structured in time allocation

Academic Writing

(Jonsson, 2006)

Make academic writing a habit

Academic work is writing

Choose problems that interest others as well as yourself

Work on several manuscripts at a time.

Love your reviewers.

Work on your English.

Use references to indicate what ball park you are in.

Beginning-middle-end.

When submitting, follow the instructions.

Check that your manuscript fits the profile of the journal.

Revision is the core of academic writing.

The editor has power, but it is limited.

Work-finish-publish

Q&A