

# Faculty Writing Groups Launch Meeting

Tuesday, November 17, 2015

3:30-5:30pm

Writing Center, Lamar Hall, 3rd Floor

Refreshments provided

Jointly sponsored by the Department of Writing and Rhetoric, the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, and Institutional Research, Effectiveness, & Planning. At this open house, learn about the structure and process of Faculty Writing Groups, discuss why this process works, and sign up for spring semester groups and our faculty writing groups' bi-annual newsletter.

## Background

It can be hard to get writing and research done for any number of reasons. One obstacle that many of us face is that we find it hard to make time for writing -- juggling scholarship with our teaching responsibilities and our lives outside of Ole Miss can be difficult. Others find that they can make the time, but they have trouble finding their voice or gaining confidence in that voice. It's easy to assume that writing and research come easily to everyone but you. It's not true. Many of us struggle with it.

## Proposal

The model we are following is used in the UK and various iterations of the model work well for faculty at many universities in the US (The

Ohio State University, Seattle University, St. John's University, University of Oklahoma, Elon University). While described in the research literature as "Action Learning Sets" (McGill & Beaty 2001; Brockbank & McGoll 1998), we prefer to call them "Faculty Writing Groups."

## How It Works

If you want to participate, you'll be working in an interdisciplinary group with 3-4 other faculty members, meeting on a monthly or bimonthly basis, setting scholarship goals, and holding one another accountable to those goals. Group meetings are organized and facilitated by a graduate research assistant trained to work with faculty writers, and meetings will be

hosted in the Writing Center on the Oxford campus. The peers in your group will challenge and support you as you structure your time, brainstorm how to overcome obstacles, meet your deadlines, and find confidence in your voice. You'll provide the same kind of supportive challenge to them in return.

If you would like to join a Faculty Writing Group but can't attend our launch meeting, please contact the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning at [cetl@olemiss.edu](mailto:cetl@olemiss.edu). Depending on the number of inquiries, we may be able to organize groups for faculty who are not able to attend the meeting.

## References

- Boice, R. (1989). Procrastination, busyness and bingeing. *Behavior Research Therapy* 27, 605-611
- Boice, R. (1997). Strategies for enhancing scholarly productivity. In J.M. Moxley & T. Taylor (Eds.), *Writing and publishing for academic authors* (pp. 19-34), Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield
- Brockbank, A., & McGill, I. (1998). *Facilitating reflective learning in higher education*. Buckingham, UK: Open University Press.
- McGill, I., & Beaty, L. (2001). *Action learning: A guide for professional, management and educational development* (2nd Ed.). London: Kogan Page.