

Working On It!

Strategies for your writing process

Writing in Community

Writing can be a very solitary process, however for many writers the practice of writing in community can be a helpful way to establish accountability and foster connections with fellow writers. At the OWRC, we offer [Open Writing Circles](#) as venue for facilitated writing in community to help writers feeling isolated in their writing practice.

Try It!

Open Writing Circles are hosted at regular intervals throughout the regular academic quarter and are open to all graduate students across UW. These meetings provide an opportunity to meet other graduate writers and practice writing in a focused and mutually accountable space. This social writing format can be especially helpful for writers who are feeling unmotivated or who are seeking a sense of camaraderie in their writing process. For details about the current Open Writing Circle meeting schedule and format, see the OWRC's [Open Writing Circle page](#). Writers are welcome to join for a single session or to attend regularly as they wish and no prior commitment is required.

In Practice

Since we transitioned to online learning, I've struggled to feel connected to my graduate coursework and research because I lost so much of my on-campus community. Writing is already such a solitary process and sitting at home alone trying to get work done can sometimes feel impossible. I'm so glad that I tried out the Open Writing Circles. These short blocks of time gave me a newfound sense of accountability with my writing. And although I do spend

so much of my time on Zoom, attending Open Writing Circles is low stakes and casual enough that it doesn't feel like another draining meeting. It's great to connect with new people across campus. In small groups, we encourage each other's success and empathize with the challenges that come with writing. I am someone who struggles to self-motivate, so being held accountable by a community of my peers is so helpful, even if it's just a couple of people who I've never met before! I recommend Open Writing Circles to anyone who feels stuck in their progress. The structured 90-minute block and the support from this community provide that gentle push to refocus that we all need from time to time.

-- Miriam