

# WSSR WORKSHOPS ON SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH

## Mastering the Writing Project: Strategies for students, academics and practitioners

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9:00am – 4:30pm

### **Getting Started – Day 1**

The goal of this day-long workshop is to get you started on a writing project. You will learn effective strategies for:

- Choosing a significant and worthy topic or problem
- Searching and gathering the most pertinent, reliable and persuasive evidence
- Evaluating and summarizing the evidence
- Pointing to deficiencies in the evidence
- Isolating and articulating a key message or central argument
- Evaluating the clarity of a key message
- Identifying a specific target audience
- Understanding the needs, values and character of the intended audience
- Reflecting on your approach to writing

To get the most out of the day, bring a laptop and a willingness to actively engage in independent and small group activities. The workshop is designed for students, new and experienced academics, community-based researchers, practitioners and policy makers who want to start a writing project but need help focusing an idea. If you have started a writing project and have an outline or rough draft that might focus your attention, bring these along.

### **Writing with Structure and Storytelling in Mind – Day 2**

This workshop focuses on the structural dimensions and the storytelling aspects of a writing project. You will learn effective strategies for:

- Introducing the problem, purpose or key message
- Arguing the importance, timeliness or relevance of addressing the problem
- Evoking audience interest in the problem (adding the sparkle or the hook)
- Selling the product with a compelling and concise title, abstract and introduction
- Organizing a coherent argument that focuses on a single main message
- Articulating the main message with the target audience in mind
- Crafting a conclusion that drives the conversation forward
- Finding your unique authorial voice

By attending Day 2, you will continue to build your writing skills by focusing on the idea you developed. You will also have the opportunity to learn a different approach to writing that combines structural dimensions (introduction, body, and conclusion) with authorial voice (telling an academic story). Bring a writing sample, an unpublished manuscript, community report or policy paper that you'd like to revise. Excerpts from sample manuscripts will also be provided.

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## **Required Readings\***

Jalongo, M.R., & Saracho, O.N. (2015). *Writing for publication: Transitions and tools that support scholars' success*. Springer: Switzerland

Available at Concordia here: <https://0-link-springer-com.mercury.concordia.ca/book/10.1007%2F978-3-319-31650-5>

## **Additional Resources**

Badenhorst, C. (2010). *Productive writing: Becoming a prolific academic writer*. Pretoria, South Africa: Van Schaik Publ.

Bigby, C. (2015). Preparing manuscripts that report qualitative research: Avoiding common pitfalls and illegitimate questions. *Australian Social Work*, 68(3), 384–391.

Fisher, P.G., Goodman, D.M., & Long, S.S. (2017). Getting published: A primer on manuscript writing and the editorial process. *The Journal of Pediatrics*, 185, 241–244.

Lingard, L. (2015). Joining a conversation: The problem/gap/hook heuristic. *Perspectives on Medical Education*, 4(5), pp.252–253.

Roush, K. (2017). Writing your manuscript: Structure and style. *American Journal of Nursing*, 117(4), 55–61.

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