



CENTER FOR  
FACULTY EXCELLENCE

# Summer Writing Group Special Topics Series

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**Writing With and Writing As and International Scholar**

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May 28, 2021

# Writing With and Writing As an International Scholar

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## Learning Objectives

- To understand the challenges of writing with and writing as an international scholar
- To learn about strategies associated with collaborative writing in multilingual teams
- To learn about other available resources

# Foreign Language Proficiency

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Choose the highest level of your own second language (L2) proficiency:

- I know a few common expressions, but not much more.
- I can have comfortable social conversations in my L2.
- I could pursue my career at an equally prestigious institution in my L2.

# Three Key Activities

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- Writing
- Responding
- Publishing

# Thinking about writing, responding, and publishing...

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With your group, write your thoughts on the Padlet boards.

- Challenges of writing *AS* an international scholar
- Challenges of writing *WITH* an international scholar
- Strategies that *HAVE* worked
- Strategies that *HAVE NOT* worked
- Questions and Concerns

# Designing the Alliance

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- Discuss these things before agreeing to or starting on a project
  - Roles and responsibilities: "How do you see us collaborating on this project?"
  - Strengths and weaknesses: "I feel very confident that I can do X. I'm less confident with Y."
  - Needs and preferences: "I appreciate detailed written feedback/the opportunity to discuss the draft together." "Please ignore grammar mistakes and concentrate on the ideas for now."
  - Timelines: For the project and for your check-ins.
  - Concerns: Specify how you'd like them to address language issues (more later).

# Additional Strategies to the Padlet

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## Writing AS

- Prioritize the content.
- Consult / share models of target texts.
- Seek specific feedback. Respect requests.
- Ignore minor language errors until final editing.
- Seek and provide good disciplinary mentoring.

## Writing WITH

- Prioritize the content
- Consult / share models of target texts.
- Seek specific feedback. Respect requests.
- Ignore minor language errors until final editing.
- Seek and provide good disciplinary mentoring.

# Pennsylvania Oil: How to Write and Read Drafts

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- **P...Point**                      • Am I making / Do I get the general point?
- **A...Assignment**            • Does the draft match the assignment? Does it meet the requirements of the genre?
- **O...Organization**        • Have I created / Do I detect a pattern of organization?
- **I...Interest**                • Is the content interesting?
- **L...Language**              • How much am I bothered by language issues?

Adapted from: Reynolds, D. (2009). *One on one with second language writers*. Ann Arbor: Univ. of Michigan Press.



# Language: Error Gravity

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- High gravity errors thoroughly impede communication
  - Request / Provide feedback on these
  - “Tell me more about this idea” is more fruitful than “What are you trying to say?”
- Low gravity errors do not seriously interfere with communication
  - Ignore or correct / Hire an editor for these

# Resources

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- Advice on seeking and providing useful feedback  
<https://writingcenter.unc.edu/tips-and-tools/writing-groups/>
- Academic and social communication support for international scholars  
<https://writingcenter.unc.edu/esl/resources/>
- F1000 Research—Browse articles for review and response language  
<https://f1000research.com/browse/articles>
- ResearchGate.net thread on plagiarism detection tools  
[https://www.researchgate.net/post/What\\_other\\_free\\_plagiarism-checking\\_software\\_do\\_you\\_use\\_other\\_than\\_Turnitin](https://www.researchgate.net/post/What_other_free_plagiarism-checking_software_do_you_use_other_than_Turnitin)
- Help for Hire when you need a professional editor <https://writingcenter.unc.edu/about/help-for-hire/>

# Thanks and Happy Writing!

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Please contact me with questions and concerns.

Gigi Taylor

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# Additional Resources and Session Survey

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- Center for Faculty Excellence support:
  - National Science Foundation writing series
  - Fulbright Scholars and Specialist awards
  - Summer Writing Group and special topics
  - National Center for Faculty Development and Diversity (NCFDD)
  - 1 on 1 writing project consulting
- See this Session's brief online survey that will be delivered to your email inbox shortly.
- Thank you for attending!