

# **Collaborative Writing Groups for Academic Publishing**

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# **Collaborative Writing Groups for Academic Publishing: The 3C and 4P Way**

BY

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

*This book is dedicated to my father, Edward C. Ayers II. I am forever grateful for your advice and humor in all things, especially related to my career. I miss you.*  
~Sarah

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## About the Authors

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# Foreword

Before I embarked on my academic career as a professor in higher education, I had a flourishing career as an author and speaker on all things education-related. When I started my first courses for my doctorate, I had already had more than 26 books published and 100 articles. I was used to receiving accolades about my writing and topped the bestseller list with my first book “Apples & Chalkdust: Inspirational Stories and Encouragement for Teachers.” All of this I accomplished as “sole” author. I did it on my own, in my own head.

Things changed dramatically when I entered my doctoral program and discovered that scholarly writing, often a collaborative effort, required a different skill set, one I did not possess. I met Sarah Semon that very first year of my studies and found myself in the midst of a culture of collaboration in pursuit of scholarship. I worked alongside and in concert with those who were well beyond my own expertise. We had shared goals and a strong sense of commitment to our field. I learned the necessary skills to be a successful and impactful scholar in the field of teacher education.

Since those early days as a scholar, I have had opportunities to continue to learn about myself as a scholar-practitioner. I learned that I had great ideas but not always the “space” in my life and work to execute them. I learned the importance of *commitment* but sometimes struggled with *communication*. I found myself falling back into my old habits of working alone so that I could manage my priorities and passions on my own time in my own way. The tenure struggle is real, and the preference for sole authorship in the promotion and tenure process led me away from collaborative writing and publishing. Until now.

What I appreciate about Collaborative Writing Groups for Academic Publishing: The 3C & 4P Way is its usefulness. It is more a “guide on the side” and not a “sage on the stage” type of book. Although the authors share their own developing and expert experiences, those stories and anecdotes are meant to provide support for the guiding principles. This guide honestly and without apology bridges the theory-to-practice gap of scholarly writing.

This guide is organized around the framing principles of C3P4: Common Focus, Commitments, Communication; Priorities, Plans, Protecting Deadlines, and Positive Reinforcement. Each of these principles is both situated in the literature and evident through the lived experiences of the authors. They provide a perfect frame to capture this collaborative process of scholarly writing and publication.

I see this guide as something scholars can use informally in their own writing groups to keep them on track and engaged. I can also see it used more formally as the foundational resource to guide a professional development course or scholarly writing “bootcamp” part of a university’s Center for Teaching and Learning. Having participated myself in a college-wide scholarly writing boot camp, I know this guide would have better organized that experience.

As someone who is considered “mid-career” faculty at this point, I know how valuable this guide can be for both graduate students and early-career faculty. This guide has given me the opportunity to learn more and recommit my own efforts to collaborate with others who share a common focus.

*Vicki Caruana, PhD*  
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# Preface

Graduate students and early career faculty are experiencing a heavier workload and an increasingly competitive academic publishing landscape. This book will help aspiring writers and scholars establish hyper-productive writing groups while navigating these challenges. Through stories, anecdotes, and connections to academic research, we will discuss the value of collaborative writing groups in navigating the obstacle course of academic publishing. Readers will learn key components of a successful collaborative writing group and how to establish one. We will highlight the pitfalls commonly experienced, including, but not limited to, infrequent meeting schedules, the lack of focus on establishing trusting relationships or alignment on purpose and projects, and the lack of visual accountability tools. We will also include discussion questions useful for those who want to develop a plan as they read the book. Enjoy!

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