

Summer 2022 ACS Summer Writing Accountability Group Program: Final Report

Report Contents

Program Description.....	1
Participants Who Completed the Program	1
Confirmation of Regular Virtual Meetings	2
Resources.....	2
Self-Assessment.....	3

Program Description

“The price we pay for the practice of solitary writing is that we often doubt ourselves, we feel as if we lack courage or commitment, we find writing lonely and hard, we can’t get into it. By [writing in community and] refusing the boundaries between individualism and community, between the public and the private..., we can ... forge new, more pleasurable and productive writing selves.”

—[Barbara Grant](#), “Writing in the Company of Other Women,” *Studies in Higher Education*, 2006

In most faculty members’ long “To Do” lists, “*Write that article!*” is often sidelined when urgent but less important tasks emerge. Writing is thus perennially relegated to summer, potentially productive months but also when we’re most isolated from our colleagues. The ACS Summer Writing Accountability Group (WAG) Program is based on the need for accountability, structure, and community in faculty writing experiences. Participants are placed into small, multi-institutional groups that serve as accountability partners throughout the summer.

The program begins with the development of a personal writing plan and a one-hour meeting of all participants. Throughout the summer, participants meet with their accountability group for one hour each week to establish and celebrate specific milestones, track their progress, talk through moments of feeling stuck, share advice on all things writing, cultivate a writing practice they can live with, and (most importantly) get some writing done. The program ends with a celebratory virtual gathering. Here is [the website](#) for the 2022 ACS Summer Writing Accountability Group Program.

Participants Who Completed the Program

This year, 40 faculty members completed the program. (One started the Program but disappeared after the first week, which is why one of the groups is smaller than the others.) Below are the 10 Writing Accountability Groups, or WAGs. Each group, which chose their own name as part of their first conversation, combined faculty from different ACS campuses, met weekly, and tracked their goals and progress throughout the summer.

Outdoor Writers (Group 1)

1. Andrea Mansker (Sewanee)
2. Bailey Brown (Spelman)
3. Kristen Thompson (Davidson)
4. John Quinn (Furman)

The Collaborators (Group 3)

1. Jana Mathews (Rollins)
2. Stephanie Rolph (Millsaps)
3. Lawrence Henderson (Morehouse)

The Summer Breeze (Group 2)

1. Zhengbin “Richard” Lu (Spelman)
2. Sarah Adeyinka-Skold (Furman)
3. Kati Curts (Sewanee)
4. Rose Stremlau (Davidson)

A-Parent Academics (Group 4)

1. Christy Allen (Furman)
2. Christopher Oakley (Spelman)
3. Susanna Weygandt (Sewanee)
4. MacKenzie Moon Ryan (Rollins)

The Great Lakers (Group 5)

1. David DiQuattro (Rollins)
2. Ali Hadd (Spelman)
3. Sarah Archino (Furman)
4. Molly Brookfield (Sewanee)

Write to Life (Group 6)

1. Deborah McGrath (Sewanee)
2. Diane Boyd (Furman)
3. Suzanne Jamir (Rollins)
4. Gustavo Segura (Spelman)

The Wise Owls (Group 7)

1. Eric Thurman (Sewanee)
2. Mattea Garcia (Rollins)
3. Buket Oztas (Furman)
4. Erika Berroth (Southwestern)

Pens & Progress (Group 8)

1. Diana Hatchett (Sewanee)
2. Myra Monreal (Rollins)
3. Barbara Lom (Davidson)
4. Daniel Worden (Furman)

Zora's Writers (Group 9)

1. Jason Rosenberg (Sewanee)
2. Kaniqua Robinson (Furman)
3. Carolyn Davis (Morehouse)
4. Erica Williams (Spelman)
5. Laurian Bowles (Davidson)

The Office (Group 10)

1. Sara Busdiecker (Spelman)
2. Lauren Jarocho (Furman)
3. Kim Maslin (Hendrix)
4. Natasha Howard (Morehouse)

Confirmation of Regular Virtual Meetings

The entire cohort (all 42 of us) met in a kick-off Zoom session on June 9, 2022, when we shared Program goals and needs, and where participants first met their WAGmates to set their meeting schedules for the summer. After that, each WAG met virtually every week throughout June and July.

In addition, [this Google sheet](#) served as the Program's tracking site where everyone shared their projects, goals, and plans, and where each WAG maintained a weekly goal-setting sheet (the subsequent tabs on the Google sheet) for each of their Zoom meetings.

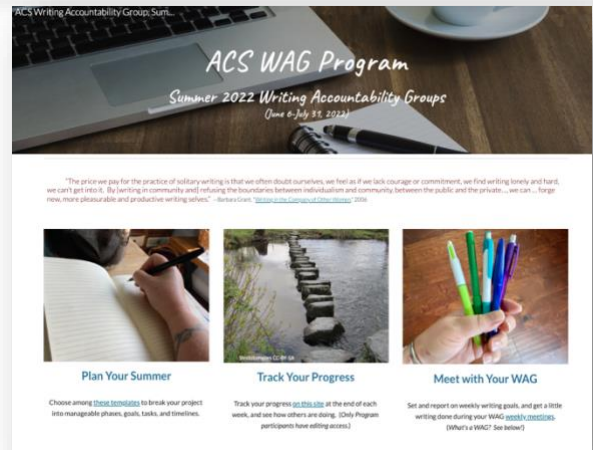
The screenshot on the right is from one of the WAGs, but the full sheet includes 6 more weeks and the final celebration in over 30 unpictured columns that extend to the right.

Zora's Writers	WAG Week 0 (June 9-12)		WAG Week 1 (June 13-15)		
Weekly Meeting: Tues 5-6pm EST	Kickoff Meeting: June 9		WAG Meeting: June 14th 5-6pm EST (4-5pm CST)		
Name (Campus)	Kickoff Meeting attendance	Writing (or prepping) goal for this week	WAG Meeting attendance	Writing goal for today's group writing time	Today's writing goal achieved?
Erica L. Williams (Spelman)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1) Revise Memoir Intro & send to M. 2) Mex Trip Write up; 3) revise Ch 2 to send to KW	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	completed #1, #2 and #3 in progress but unfinished	Write for 2 hours/day Mon-Fri; Revise BFA Ch 2 (send to Dev Editor Sun); TM Query Letter; JAC Book Abstracts and Keywords
Laurian Bowles (Davidson)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1. Complete summer strategic plan calendar through August	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Revised notes for chapter 3	Write for 2 hours/day Mon-Fri; Revise BFA Ch 2 (send to Dev Editor Sun); TM Query Letter; JAC Book Abstracts and Keywords
Kaniqua Robinson (Furman)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1) Review IRB 2) Review previous work on book proposal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Began IRB process at current institution; reviewed previous work book proposal	Open up chapter 4; at least 2 writing blocks for 4 days
Jason Carl Rosenberg (Sewanee)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Take care of Dept. duties and class prep, so that I have more time to focus on writing next week.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Start chamber piece.	Clarify theoretical framework
Carolyn Davis (Morehouse)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Edit manuscript to send to editors	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unfortunately, none.	Open up chapter 4; at least 2 writing blocks for 4 days

Resources

Here is the Program's [website](#). (See screenshot to the right.) This site provided an easily accessible space for participants to use whether they were in their offices, traveling, or working from home. It contains some writing resources as well as a link to the Program's accountability site.

I invite the ACS to link to this site to showcase the Program.



Self-Assessment

I did not do a survey at the end of the Program, so please go ahead and send one from the ACS. The goals for this Program were to provide structure, accountability, and community to support ACS faculty in writing throughout the summer.

Structure

This Program provides plenty of structure for each of the WAGs and for individual faculty members in a few ways. Perhaps most importantly, it uses a simple weekly rhythm for the duration of the program. Each WAG determines its own weekly meeting days/times (which became routine of that group), and their [sheet on the tracking site](#) is also organized by week. I also send an email to the cohort every Monday morning, and participants track their progress by the end of each week.

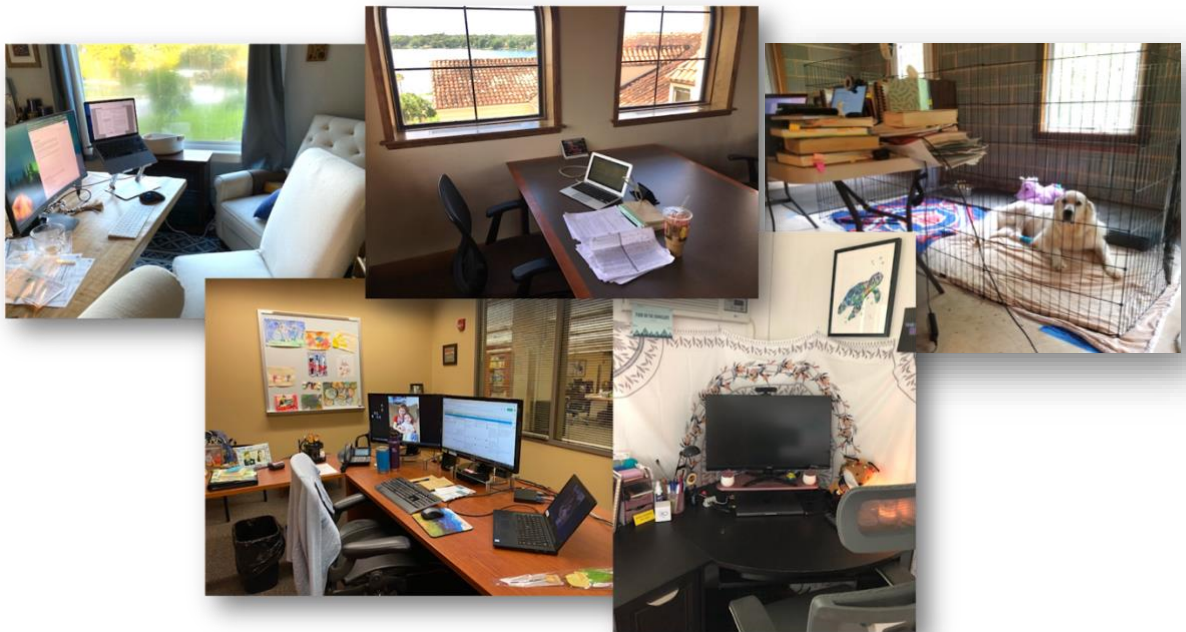
Accountability

Accountability is the central piece of this Program, so the structure and community aspects of the Program are designed to bolster the sense of accountability participants feel as they go about their work. Participants track their weekly and summer goals in Google site as described above. Each WAG meets weekly to discuss how the week had gone, to write together as companions, and to goalshare for the coming week. While some groups were more successful and consistent than others, it was clear that participants came to appreciate support from one another and to use the WAGs to hold themselves accountable.

Community

Aligned with the goals of the ACS, the Program aims to establish a sense of community across ACS campuses, so I formed each WAG with campus variety in mind. Participants commented on how much they appreciated these connections throughout the summer, and a few report that they will continue to meet in the future. In addition to continuing to support each other in accountability groups, it is clear that participants made new relationships with their peers at other institutions and should have more robust cross-campus relationships in the future.

Below are some images shared as part of the Program, and below that are some of the unsolicited notes from participants.

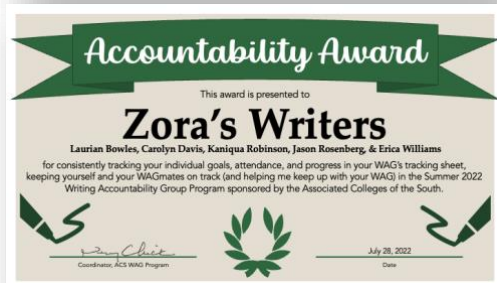


Photographs of different writing spaces submitted by participants



Screenshots submitted by a few of the WAGs

Awards presented in our final gathering



From: Diana Hatchett <dlhatche@sewanee.edu>
Date: Thursday, August 4, 2022 at 1:39 PM
To: Nancy Chick <NCHICK@Rollins.edu>
Subject: Thank you for WAGs

Dear Nancy,

Thank you so very much for organizing and facilitating the WAGs this summer! Participating in this program helped me feel less isolated, stay more on task, and meet some of my writing goals. In fact, our WAG is continuing to meet through August. I also found the book proposal session very informative and encouraging - thanks also for that.

I've heard good things about your other programs, so I hope I can participate in some of those in the future.

Wishing you all the best this academic year,
Diana Hatchett

From: Kaniqua Robinson <kaniqua.robinson@furman.edu>
Date: Tuesday, August 2, 2022 at 7:07 PM
To: Nancy Chick <NCHICK@Rollins.edu>
Subject: Re: ACS WAG: Award info request

Hi Nancy,

Thank you again for the award and such an awesome program! I hope I can do this next year. The mentorship and accountability really helped me make much progress on my book proposal. Also, I appreciate your guidance, tips, and advice throughout this program!

I hope you have a great rest of your summer!

Best,
Kaniqua

From: MacKenzie Moon Ryan <MMRYAN@Rollins.edu>
Date: Thursday, July 28, 2022 at 10:26 AM
To: Nancy Chick <NCHICK@Rollins.edu>
Subject: Re: ACS WAG: Final Week!

Thanks, Nancy! I appreciate the shout-out and recognition. I really liked returning to the program and honing my flow, celebrating my accomplishments, and bemoaning the bumps in the road with fellow supportive colleagues. I'd love to return for Year 3 if ACS continues its support!

Best,
MacKenzie

P.S. I'm submitting article #2 to peer review today – meeting goals and feeling good as we face down August. Yay for small and big wins!

From: Davis, Carolyn <Carolyn.Davis@morehouse.edu>
Date: Monday, July 25, 2022 at 1:43 PM
To: Nancy Chick <NCHICK@Rollins.edu>
Subject: Re: ACS WAG: Final Week!

Good afternoon Nancy,
Thank you so very much for this timely inspiration (I had just taken a break from a challenging time of manuscript revision before I read your email. The insights in your email helped renew my purpose and resolve concerning this manuscript!)
And thanks also for these very helpful summer WAGs.
Sincerely,
Carolyn Davis

From: Erika Berroth <berrothe@southwestern.edu>
Date: Monday, July 25, 2022 at 9:04 AM
To: Nancy Chick <NCHICK@Rollins.edu>
Subject: Re: ACS WAG: Final Week!

Dear Nancy,
Thanks for keeping us updated, organized, and focused. It all makes a difference this summer!
With deep appreciation for all your do,
Erika

From: Thompson, Kristen <krthompson@davidson.edu>
Date: Friday, July 29, 2022 at 11:24 AM
To: Nancy Chick <NCHICK@Rollins.edu>
Subject: WAG Zoom group photo

Nancy,
Thanks so much for your guidance and organization throughout this process. I found the experience to be valuable and our group has made plans to continue to meet at least 1x per month throughout the fall semester to help keep our momentum going.

Best,
Kristen

From: Sarah Archino <sarah.archino@furman.edu>
Date: Thursday, July 28, 2022 at 11:16 AM
To: Nancy Chick <NCHICK@Rollins.edu>
Subject: Sorry to miss the fun today!

Hi Nancy,

I was so sorry to miss the gathering this morning. We had a Covid case in our circle, so my plans for childcare went out the window. But I wanted to thank you for organizing this group. It had contributed to one of my most productive summers - not just in terms of work accomplished, but in how I felt about my writing. It's great to feel this way going into August!!

Hope our paths cross again soon,
Sarah

From: Buket Oztas <buket.oztas@furman.edu>

Date: Thursday, July 28, 2022 at 9:47 AM

To: Nancy Chick <NCHICK@Rollins.edu>

Subject: Thank you!

Hi Nancy,

I wanted to tell you how much I benefited from the program and the company of my colleagues and how much I looked forward to meeting them every Monday and sharing my work! On a day I was struggling and losing motivation, for instance, I received an email from Mattea, who knew that I was close to my deadline, and her encouraging words made all the difference - I wanted to write more not to let her down! I learned a lot about myself and others' writing processes as well, and I enjoyed every minute of it!

Thanks so much for organizing this program and bringing us together! I am looking forward to celebrating with you all soon!

Buket

From: Jana Mathews <JMATHEWS@Rollins.edu>

Date: Tuesday, July 12, 2022 at 4:20 PM

To: Nancy Chick <NCHICK@Rollins.edu>

Subject: WAG The Collaborators

Dear Nancy,

I just want to say how much I love this program. My group is the BEST. We've shared work, given each other pep talks, and cheered each other on.

Jana

From: Diane Boyd <diane.boyd@furman.edu>

Date: Wednesday, August 10, 2022 at 3:50 PM

To: Nancy Chick <NCHICK@Rollins.edu>

Subject: ACS WAG: Well Done, Thank You, and a Request

Hi Nancy!

Thank you for leading a wonderful writing experience!

May we borrow—with attribution, of course---the amazing structure you provided (accountability gdoc structure and small group convo structure) for a similar Furman-focused group?

Thank you for considering!

Diane