



ACS Writing Accountability Groups, Summer 2026

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The ACS WAGS 2026 Overview:

The primary goal of this program is to provide structure, accountability, and support to help faculty members work on writing and research during the summer months. As an ACS-sponsored program, the secondary goal is to meaningfully connect faculty from across the ACS campuses.

Twenty-five faculty members participated in this year's WAGs.

Centenary College of Louisiana (2)
Centre College (2)
Furman University (2)
Hendrix College (3)
Morehouse College (1)
Rhodes College (1)
Rollins College (7)
Sewanee: The University of the South (1)
Southwestern University (1)
Spelman College (3)
Trinity University (1)
University of Richmond (1)

Faculty were divided into six small multi-campus accountability groups. Small group participants held 8 weekly meetings (June 1-July 25) to write together and who committed to both being held accountable and holding each other accountable. In addition, the entire group met twice, once for a kick-off and once for a final celebration.

If more details are needed, attendance for each of these smaller group meetings is noted in the group's google doc. Only 1 member never attended. The other 24 participants attended at least half the scheduled meetings.

Outcomes:

Based on the self-reporting of participants, seven articles were submitted during this period. Most participants reported significant progress on their writing goals.

Participant comments:

- I learned the power of setting goals and planning was the anchor for my progress. Having that weekly accountability helped me so much, without it I think I would have just put off writing for weeks at a time. Knowing that I had new friends to report to gave me great motivation.
- This group was much more successful for me (in terms of output) than writing groups with colleagues from work, with whom I get distracted by talking about work/classes/university stuff. We were very efficient and respectful of our time, which helped a lot.
- I discovered that I need both structure and an external person to help me be accountable. I've previously set deadlines for myself but if I'm only holding myself accountable or asking a friend to hold me accountable it doesn't work. Having a dedicated writing practice is hard to maintain with all the other demands of an academic summer.
- I learned that I can be productive in small blocks of time, including the 40 -50 minutes during the weekly meetings. Setting small but achievable goals was key. I adopted this strategy throughout the week - when I had scraps of time, I worked on small "projects".
- Having supportive partners to keep me accountable and celebrate small achievements was really helpful.