



# Organising yourself to write

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Klaus von Pressentin



# How to get from A to B: Writing your proposal

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- Scientific or academic writing guidance
- Understanding your university's PhD process
- Organising yourself to write

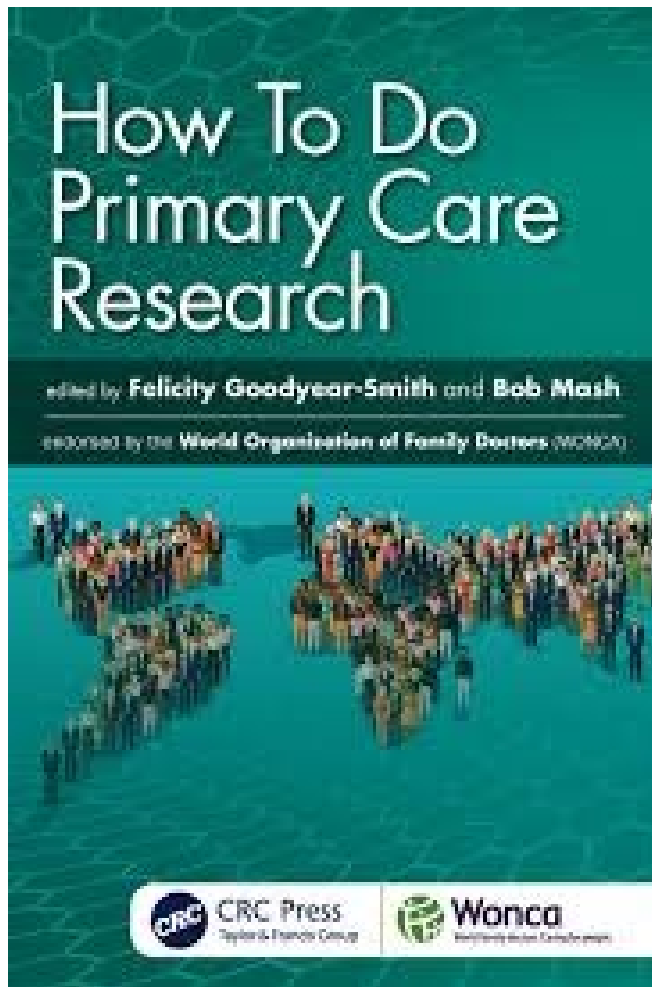
# “How to write and how to publish”

- *“Communication with, and dissemination to, others is an integral part of research.*
- *Written communication is necessary throughout the research process...*
- *Research is about creating new knowledge, and the new knowledge you have created needs to be shared.*
- *Researchers need to know how to write and how to publish their research in peer-reviewed journals.”*

Chapter 27

NAPCRG – Promoting primary care research:

<https://youtu.be/pbfYwW8Hlqs>

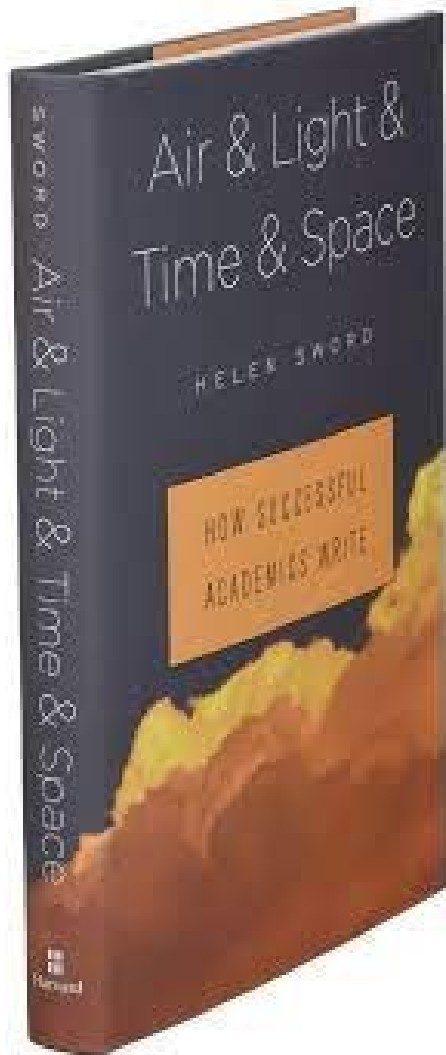


# Scientific or academic writing guidance

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- Role of the supervisor(s) vs the student/researcher
- Peer writing groups
- University writing resources
- Writing retreats? “Shut up and write” - <https://shutupwrite.com/>
- Twitter community: #AcademicChatter #acadwri





- “From the author of *Stylish Academic Writing* comes an essential new guide for writers aspiring to become more productive and take greater pleasure in their craft. Helen Sword interviewed one hundred academics worldwide about their writing background and practices. Relatively few were trained as writers, she found, and yet all have developed strategies to thrive in their publish-or-perish environment.
- Sword identifies four cornerstones that anchor any successful writing practice: **B**ehavioral habits of discipline and persistence; **A**rtisanal habits of craftsmanship and care; **S**ocial habits of collegiality and collaboration; and **E**motional habits of positivity and pleasure.
- Building on this “BASE,” she illuminates the emotional complexity of the writing process and exposes the lack of writing support typically available to early-career academics. She also lays to rest the myth that academics must produce safe, conventional prose or risk professional failure. The successful writers profiled here tell stories of intellectual passions indulged, disciplinary conventions subverted, and risk-taking rewarded.
- Grounded in empirical research and focused on sustainable change, *Air & Light & Time & Space* offers a customizable blueprint for refreshing personal habits and creating a collegial environment where all writers can flourish.”

<https://www.helensword.com/events>  
[Review from Harvard](#)

Innovation and Change in Professional Education 19

Lorelei Lingard  
Christopher Watling

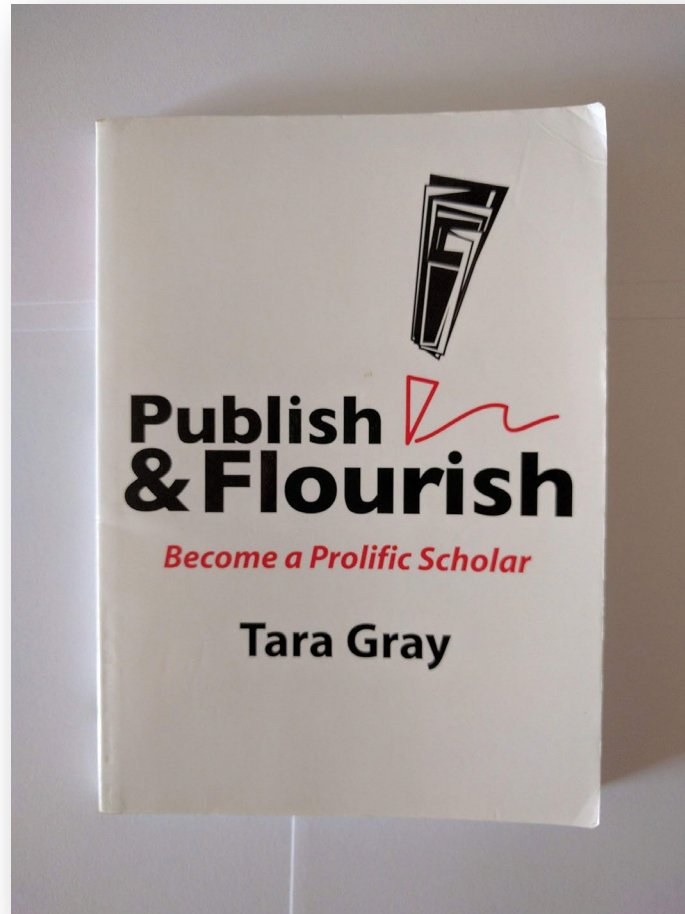
## Story, Not Study: 30 Brief Lessons to Inspire Health Researchers as Writers

 Springer

- “Many researchers dread writing. They find it laborious - even painful - to put their scholarly work into words. They get bogged down in the study, and lose track of the story. And they produce uninspiring papers that fail to resonate with readers or reviewers. This book offers an antidote to this problem: brief, accessible lessons that guide researchers to write clear and compelling scientific manuscripts.
- The book is divided into three sections – **Story, Craft, and Community**. The Story section offers advice on getting the balance of study and story just right, introducing strategies for tackling each section of a scientific manuscript. The Craft section considers the grammatical and rhetorical tools of the trade, showing how they can be wielded for maximum impact. And the Community section offers suggestions for writing collaboratively, supporting other writers, and navigating peer review.
- Each section features multiple short and pragmatic lessons, peppered with illustrative examples. Readers can use the chapters collectively to build holistic writing skills, or dip in and out to refine specific elements of the craft. Rooted in a coaching philosophy, we aim to unlock our readers’ potential as writers through instruction, reflection, and example.
- And we hope to inspire researchers to face writing with joy.”

[Review from Amazon](#)

# Publish and Flourish: Become a Prolific Scholar



## Write

*Step 1:* Write daily for at least 15–30 minutes.

*Step 2:* Record your minutes spent writing—share records daily.

*Step 3:* Write informally from the first day of your research project.

*Step 4:* Outline your manuscript based on an exemplar.

## Revise

*Step 5:* Find or write a key sentence for each paragraph.

*Step 6:* Make a list of key sentences as an after-the-fact outline.

*Step 7:* Seek informal feedback before formal review.

*Step 8:* Respond effectively to feedback.

*Step 9:* Read your manuscript out loud.

*Step 10:* Kick it out the door, and make 'em say, "Yes!"

[Link to author's webpage](#) ; [Link to brief outline with excerpts](#)



# Writing your PhD proposal

- Confirm your University's doctoral degree board guidance
- Understand the process of getting your PhD protocol approved
- Concept note vs full proposal
- Adhere to the prescribed format
- Proposal review by internal and/or external assessors
- Oral presentation
- Approvals – ethics and facility access



# Preparing (and polishing) your proposal

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- Follow the instructions on the proposal/concept note content and length
- Formatting requirements
- Language editing



# <https://www.equator-network.org/>

## Your one-stop-shop for writing and publishing high-impact health research

find reporting guidelines | improve your writing | join our courses | run your own training course | enhance your peer review | implement guidelines



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The Library contains a comprehensive searchable database of reporting guidelines and also links to other resources relevant to research reporting.



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[Not sure which reporting guideline to use?](#)



[Reporting guidelines under development](#)



[Visit the library for more resources](#)



### Reporting guidelines for main study types

[Randomised trials](#)

[Observational studies](#)

[Systematic reviews](#)

[Study protocols](#)

[Diagnostic/prognostic studies](#)

[Case reports](#)

[Clinical practice guidelines](#)

[Qualitative research](#)

[Animal pre-clinical studies](#)

[Quality improvement studies](#)

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[CONSORT](#) [Extensions](#)

[STROBE](#) [Extensions](#)

[PRISMA](#) [Extensions](#)

[SPIRIT](#) [PRISMA-P](#)

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Matheus Bardenhager

# Resources on organising yourself to write

- Productivity Pitstop: <https://www.bigmarker.com/communities/productivity-pit-stop/conferences>
- The Pomodoro Technique:
  - In favour: <https://go-gale-com.ezproxy.uct.ac.za/ps/i.do?p=AONE&u=unict&id=GALE|A627839864&v=2.1&it=r>
  - Against: <https://www.proquest.com/docview/2494268179?pq-origsite=primo&accountid=14500>
  - <https://www.pressreader.com/canada/montreal-gazette/20210904/282157884355985>
- Peer writing groups:
  - <https://gsc.upenn.edu/creating-effective-peer-writing-groups>
  - <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/13562517.2017.1391200>
- Writing retreats; “Shut up and write” - <https://shutupwrite.com/>
- Twitter community: #phdchat #phdadvice #phdforum #phdlife #ecrchat #acwri #AcademicChatter
  - <https://twitter.com/docwritingsig?lang=en>; <https://doctoralwriting.wordpress.com/>
  - <https://twitter.com/WriteThatPhD>
  - <https://thesiswhisperer.com/useful-resources-for-students-and-supervisors/>
  - <https://twitter.com/ithinkwellHugh>

# Avoiding the common mistakes...



As an academic writing coach, here are the 9 mistakes I see PhD and grad students make when writing scientific papers.

A thread. 🧵

4:52 PM · Jul 28, 2023 · **886.5K** Views

**1,271** Retweets   **72** Quotes   **5,052** Likes   **4,902** Bookmarks

...



**Anna Clemens, PhD** ✓ @scientistswrite · Jul 28

TL;DR: 9 writing mistakes I see PhD students make (1/2)

- #1: Thinking it's laziness when procrastinating
- #2: Starting to write a paper by "writing"
- #3: Trying to make sentences perfect in the first draft
- #4: Accepting edits without understanding them
- #5: Not agreeing on the story

1   26   209   34.1K



**Anna Clemens, PhD** ✓ @scientistswrite · Jul 28

TL;DR: 9 writing mistakes I see PhD students make (2/2)

- #6: Underestimating how long writing tasks take
- #7: Asking for feedback too late
- #8: Thinking your supervisor has the writing process figured out
- #9: Not asking for writing training

3   18   181   31K

<https://twitter.com/scientistswrite/status/1684939984267030528?s=20>



Thank you |

Thank you!  
Baie dankie!  
Enkosi kakhulu!

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