

# FRIT Writing Group

—Program Description 9/25/2017—

Sponsored by the Department of French and Italian, and modeled after the Faculty Writing Groups, the FRIT Writing Group is designed to support advanced FRIT graduate students as they write their dissertations, articles or chapters for publication, conference papers, grants, and by extension job dossiers. The program also aims to help introduce students to resources available to them in the library and on the web.

## **Core Principles**

The groups are founded upon two basic principles: 1) daily writing produces better quality work while also minimizing stress; and 2) group accountability helps reinforce motivation. These strategies can be especially difficult to implement without some external structure and support. In order to help you integrate these skills into your writing practice, we provide weekly writing-based workshops that focus on the needs of doctoral students writing in linguistics, French, and Italian Studies. These are not review groups (focused on sharing work and improving prose) but accountability groups aimed at supporting process and productivity.

## **Structure of the Groups**

The writing group runs for 3 hours weekly, divided this way:

Group discussion (first 20 mins): This will be facilitated by a student facilitator who will discuss writing and motivational strategies and allow each member of the group to share their progress since the last meeting and set goals for structured writing time.

Structured writing time (remaining 2.5 hours): All members of the group will spend the remaining two hours of the session working on their individual projects. While this time will be focused on individual work, the facilitator(s) and other members of the writing group will be nearby to answer any questions and offer support.

The final ten minutes are dedicated to checking in about how the writing session went.

## **Participants will**

- commit to regular attendance for the semester
- keep a record of their goals and progress
- provide facilitators with ongoing feedback about the program

## **Group Co-Facilitators will**

- lead a short discussion/workshop at the beginning of each session
- facilitate group discussion of goals, strategies, and long-term writing plans
- help participants to remain on-task (and away from e-mail, Facebook, YouTube, or other distractions)
- be available to offer advice or feedback on the writing process or a particular piece of writing

## **List of Possible Topics for full-group discussion**

- Training yourself to write *every* day
- Productive goal-setting strategies
- Types of revision and feedback (structural, surface-level, etc.)
- Balancing teaching/writing/service
- Strategies for dealing with writer's block and rejected projects

### **Motivation and Participation**

In these writing groups, punctuality is more than just a gesture of courtesy towards your facilitator. Committing to attend your sessions every week at the allotted time helps you to protect that time. Another foundation of these writing groups is group interaction and support. The first section of each session is set aside for discussion of writing strategies and the sharing of personal goals and progress. When you arrive late, you may still have the ability to share your thoughts and receive advice, but you have missed the opportunity to listen to your other group members and offer support. This leads to a one-sided relationship and is a strain on the group as a whole.

We realize that weather, travel, and parking regulations can make things difficult, but please take your commitment to the group seriously and make arrangements that allow you to reliably arrive on time. Please remember that the writing groups are competitive—participants that are repeatedly tardy or absent will not be selected to continue in future semesters.

### **Contact information**

All participants will be members of a Canvas worksite: *FRIT Writing Group*. Announcements and resources for the whole group are available there. Each specific writing group also has its own group to use for internal messages.

For further information about these writing groups, contact Alison Calhoun, Faculty Mentor, [abcalhou@indiana.edu](mailto:abcalhou@indiana.edu)