The Academic Writers’ Space

Community • Structure • Results

- Are you a graduate student, researcher, or professor who wants to be more productive and motivated when it comes to academic writing?

- Would you benefit from supportive accountability to get in the chair, write, and do other research-related activities?

- Do you want to overcome internal and external barriers and build a strong foundation for being an academic writer?

We have a solution for you: The Academic Writers’ Space brought to you by The Dissertation Coach, a coaching and consulting company with over 20 years of experience supporting the academic success of students, researchers, and professors.

WATCH TO LEARN MORE

The Academic Writers’ Space is a vibrant, online coworking community where academic writers come together to develop a sound writing practice. We offer professionally facilitated writing retreats. These retreats combine the support of peers and the guidance of experienced writing coaches to create a structured environment for getting real work done. Join us to be productive in an environment of solidarity and collective efficacy!

Our Signature Offering is our Two-Hour Writing Retreat.

Format for All Writing Retreats Sessions (Held via Zoom):

**Opening** – 10 minutes: Introduction to the theme of the week (e.g., resilience, self-compassion, planning and pacing, self-compassion, etc.) that provides a powerful context for awareness of how you can effectively engage with your work.

**Work Session One** – 45 minutes: Focused, independent time for organization, research, and writing. **Mid-Point Check-in** – 10 minutes: An interactive opportunity to reflect, share, reset, and adjust your approach as you set your goals for Work Session Two.

**Work Session Two** – 45 minutes: Focused, independent time for organization, research, and writing.

**Closing** – 10 minutes: An interactive opportunity to reflect, share, and integrate the wisdom and lessons learned from the writing retreat.

All our retreats are open to our members and are facilitated by Alison Miller, PhD, owner of The Dissertation Coach & other members of The Dissertation Coach Team.

In February 2021, we are offering 19 Writing Retreats per week, a “Sunday Reset” retreat and four bonus retreats that we are recording. Additional retreats & workshops will be added in future months, month after month, as our membership grows.
Membership Fee
The fee for membership is $99 USD per month and can be cancelled at any time. You may attend a free trial session by sending an email to frontdesk@theacademicwritersspace.com and requesting one free trial session. Please note: our website for The Academic Writers’ Space is not live yet. We offer a 30-day money back guarantee should you be unhappy in your first month of membership. To request a refund, please contact support at frontdesk@theacademicwritersspace.com

February 2021 Writing Retreat Schedule

**Monday February 1, 8, 15, 22** (4 sessions per day)
Session 1: 5am - 7am PST / 8am – 10am EST / 1 – 3 pm UK / 2pm – 4pm CET
Session 2: 7am - 9am PST / 10am - noon EST / 3pm - 5pm UK / 4pm – 6pm CET
Session 3: 9am – 11am PST / noon – 2pm EST / 5pm – 7pm UK / 6pm – 8pm CET
Session 4: Noon – 2pm PST / 3pm – 5pm EST / 8pm – 10pm UK / 9 pm -11pm CET

**Tuesday February 2, 9, 16, 23** (3 sessions per day)
Session 1: 9am – 11am PST / noon – 2pm EST / 5pm – 7pm UK / 6pm – 8pm CET
Session 2: Noon – 2pm PST / 3pm – 5pm EST / 8pm – 10pm UK / 9 pm -11pm CET
Session 3: 4pm - 6pm PST / 7-9pm EST / 12am- 2am UK / 1am -3am CET

**Wednesday February 3, 10, 17, 24** (4 sessions per day)
Session 1: 5am - 7am PST / 8am – 10am EST / 1 - 3pm UK / 2pm – 4pm CET
Session 2: 7am -9am PST / 10am -noon EST / 3pm -5pm UK / 4pm – 6pm CET
Session 3: 9am – 11am PST / noon – 2pm EST / 5pm – 7pm UK / 6pm – 8pm CET
Session 4: 4pm - 6pm PST / 7-9pm EST / 12am- 2am UK / 1am -3am CET

**Thursday February 4, 11, 18, 25** (4 sessions per day)
Session 1: 7am - 9am PST / 10am - noon EST / 3pm - 5pm UK / 4pm – 6pm CET
Session 2: 9am – 11am PST / noon – 2pm EST / 5pm – 7pm UK / 6pm – 8pm CET
Session 3: Noon – 2pm PST / 3pm – 5pm EST / 8pm – 10pm UK / 9 pm -11pm CET
Session 4: 4pm - 6pm PST / 7-9pm EST / 12am- 2am UK / 1am -3am CET

**Friday February 5, 12, 19, 26** (3 sessions per day)
Session 1: 7am -9am PST / 10am -noon EST / 3pm -5pm UK / 4pm – 6pm CET
Session 2: 9am – 11am PST / noon – 2pm EST / 5pm – 7pm UK / 6pm – 8pm CET
Session 3: 3pm - 5pm PST / 6-8pm EST / 11am- 1am UK / 12am -2am CET

**Saturday February 6, 13, 20, 27** (1 session per day)
Session 1: 9am – 11am PST / noon – 2pm EST / 5pm – 7pm UK / 6pm – 8pm CET
Workshops + Live Q&A

Sunday February 7,14,21, and 28 - Sunday Reset
Time: Noon EST (*The February 7 be recorded as we build a library for the new website)

Sunday Reset meetings are an opportunity to step back, see the bigger picture, and prioritize your individual next steps - without the pressure to produce immediate results. In these sessions, you are encouraged to create the infrastructure and environment that best supports your ability to focus, concentrate and be productive.

Monday February 8 - Working Wisely & Well with Faculty with Deirdre Rogers, PhD, Christopher Bradley, PhD, & Alison Miller, PhD
Time: 7pm EST

Engaging with faculty is one the most important things that students do during their time in graduate school. It is not always the easiest relationship. This workshop will create a space for students to discuss the complexities of these relationships and allow us to find meaningful solutions to emerging collaborative problems.

Sunday February 21 - First Aid for Perfectionism with Alison Miller, PhD & Melinda Valente, EdD
Time: 3pm EST

Perfectionism is an incredibly common obstacle that interferes with productivity and can make conducting academic research and writing a painful and stressful experience. When we hold ourselves to standards that are unattainable or attainable only with great difficulty, we are imprisoned in an experience where creativity, curiosity, and the willingness to learn and make discoveries over time is stifled. In this workshop, we will discuss sound strategies that you can use as “first aid” to loosen the grip of perfectionism in your academic work and life.

All sessions are held via Zoom – Zoom information will be provided upon purchase of a membership.

Interested in becoming a member?

Join the Academic Writer's Space by filling out our membership form: HERE

You will be invoiced for your first month of membership after we receive your form. Information on our policies, cancellations, terms, and conditions are in the form.

To attend a free trial Writing Retreat or Special Session, please email frontdesk@theacademicwritersspace.com

Please note: The website for The Academic Writers’ Space is not live currently. You can learn more about our team at www.thedissertationcoach.com

Questions: Please email frontdesk@theacademicwritersspace.com
What People are Saying about The Academic Writers’ Space

“In the beginning of stay-at-home period due to the COVID pandemic, co-working in The Academic Writers’ Space writing retreats really helped me to stay on track. As I progress little by little, the retreats help me better concentrate on what I am doing in a 2-hour time frame. These hours are very important to me! Instead of procrastinating, I show up to co-work with others and end up happy with what I accomplish each day.”

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“Oh, let me tell how you truly excellent the writing retreats are! The facilitators, always gracious, always hospitable, opens the sessions with insightful and inspirational words to help get everyone on track and reach new depths. We all then declare our goals and work away for 45 minutes before reconvening to check-in, update our colleagues, reset our goals and begin again. The commitment is very flexible - indeed, I am not able to be a regular participant because of childcare responsibilities, so sometimes I just pop in and out to receive a boost for the work I have planned for another point in the day. Even still, the atmosphere is super collegial and motivating. Through the thoughtful guidance and supportive community offered by these retreats, I have found new focus and discipline. My advice: join the fun and get some work done!”

Anonymous PhD Candidate, Montreal, Canada

“I am incredibly grateful for the Writing Retreats since they offer a sense of community. In this online space, I feel grounded and nurtured, not only by the facilitators but my peers who are working on various academic projects. Since attending, I am more productive; my sense of purpose has been renewed. Overall, the Writing Retreats provide a forum to practice my why of pursuing a dissertation, a forum to remind myself of my academic vision, and a forum that provides a nurturing space to excel and succeed in my research and writing.”

Gina S, doctoral student

“The Writing Retreats through the Academic Writers’ Space provide a sanctuary, wherein one can transcend internal and external barriers to progress. Dr. Alison Miller has alchemized her vast experience in productivity and coaching and an obvious commitment to humanity into a service that uniquely empowers both connection and personal accountability. Through my member investment, I have gained access to a safe and secure environment where I am empowered to practice in alignment with my intentions, make measurable progress, and take part in a broader collective impact – as the Writing Retreat community upholds each other in shared advancement. The quality of experience is evidence of the Academic Writers’ Space team’s commitment to excellence and compassion, as their lessons in both the arts and sciences of productivity, academic research, and self-development ignite creativity, focus, and actualization of potential. My experience in the Writing Retreats through this particular service has been transformational. I wish to share this gift with all, particularly with those who are feeling stuck, hopeless, or alone in their academic or writing pursuits; there is a path to overcome. I encourage them to invest in themselves and their dreams through this powerful experience and community.”

LisaMarie Turk, Nursing Policy Doctoral Student

“I am so glad to have found this shared space for academic writers. It has absolutely changed my relationship with my thesis and how I manage my time writing. I must say the hardest part of being a Ph.D. student has been the isolation where I found myself alone and lacked any peer support on a daily basis. This group has indeed provided the support to beat that isolation and make progress on my writing.”

Shagufta, Doctoral Student
“As a non-traditional student working on my dissertation, I found myself feeling isolated, and practicing avoidance on many levels. I just assumed that I was the problem, and that everyone else was being incredibly productive. Not being someone who typically asks for help, I finally took the initiative to reach out to Alison Miller once I found her website, and I’m here to say that there is another way. You don’t have to be miserable! Alison and her staff provide wisdom, warmth, and compassion, along with structure and a community of other writers at their writing retreats. While dissertating is still a struggle, the connection and support that she and her team provide is invaluable.” - J. B., Doctoral Student

“Oh, let me tell how you truly excellent the writing retreats are! The facilitators, always gracious, always hospitable, opens the sessions with insightful and inspirational words to help get everyone on track and reach new depths. We all then declare our goals and work away for 45 minutes before reconvening to check-in, update our colleagues, reset our goals and begin again. The commitment is very flexible - indeed, I am not able to be a regular participant because of childcare responsibilities, so sometimes I just pop in and out to receive a boost for the work I have planned for another point in the day. Even still, the atmosphere is super collegial and motivating. Through the thoughtful guidance and supportive community offered by these retreats, I have found new focus and discipline. My advice: join the fun and get some work done!” - Anonymous PhD Candidate, Montreal, Canada

“As a member of The Academic Writers’ Space, I am happy to report that I’m getting more work done because 1) I want the other people in my group to be proud of me, 2) I feel like I have permission to turn my phone off, kick my partner out of my corner of the living room, and focus on my own work during work sessions with other people in a way that I don’t when I’m just working on my own, 3) I get shaken out of unproductive strategies every 45 minutes - the check-ins are productive interruptions that give me space to have perspective on either technical or emotional difficulties, 4) I get validation and support and new strategies when I encounter a problem. Other benefits are that I’m learning to predict how much work I can get done in 45 minutes and recovering faster from frustrating, unproductive or distracted work sessions. I like that I can join and there’s no pressure to actively talk or participate. It’s warm and friendly and encouraging.” - Susannah T, Doctoral Student

“My experience attending “the Academic Writers’ Space” has been overwhelmingly positive. It has provided me with the necessary "sacred space" to work on my dissertation without feeling a sense of judgement. Beyond catering to my individual goals/needs, the retreats have instilled a true sense of community and humanity to the research and academic process. Working alongside a community of writers has also forged some great connections, as we all seek to empower each other towards our individual goals. Ultimately, the coaches really encourage us to think more empathetically about our relationship to our work and our place within academia.” - Michael Turabian, Montreal, Canada.

I am so also glad to have the opportunity to thank you for creating The Academic Writers’ Space and welcoming me into the community! I spent most of June watching Netflix, taking "avoidance naps" (inner enabler), and generally feeling overwhelmed and incapacitated by my lack of progress (inner critic). I knew I needed something to help me start to move through this process, but I didn't know how to create it for myself. I went to my first workshop on July 11, and today I am sending my advisor 4+ pages of new content for the first time in months (possibly years?). I even wrote 650 words JUST TODAY! If you had asked me at that first session where I could be in 2 weeks, I would NEVER have been able to imagine this much progress. I would've been grouch about the idea that 4 pages represented any kind of victory, and resentful of the weeks' worth of retreats that I spent just getting fluent with the literature (instead of churning out pages). But today I feel so good that I tried to take a "reward nap" (as opposed to an "avoidance nap") and I was shocked at how much longer it took me to fall asleep. Yes, most of the 45-minute work segments have felt long and difficult, and I'm a little reluctant to wrap my head around the idea that I'll be doing long and difficult 45-minute work segments for a long time (I'm still really, really far from finishing). But I'm also really excited that I can see these changes in myself and in my work! I'm so grateful for the messages of self-compassion, and for the space to take things one step at a time, and for the community you've created. - Cristina Watson, Doctoral Student
After writing with The Academic Writers’ Space for six weeks, I finished my first chapter. After struggling to find direction for a year, I was able to refocus myself to get things done. I am working full-time with a six-month baby girl, so it can be extremely challenging for me to “find the time” to write. The Academic Writers’ Space helped me to discover ways that I work best and what motivates me. Every session feels like dissertation therapy and writing. I look forward to my writing time and went from participating once a week to 3-4 times a week. It reminds me of going to a workout class. It just becomes part of your schedule and something that makes you feel great and productive! I can’t say enough of The Academic Writers’ Space. I no longer have the guilt of spending my time on other things and I am enjoying the dissertation process. I participated in other groups, and this one by far is the best. - Megan Morin, PhD Student

I would never be where I am if I had not signed up to attend the writing retreats at The Academic Writers’ Space. I have learned so much about setting goals (big and small), working through writing anxiety, and how to create organization skills to apply to my writing. I would be remiss if I did not mention again the support this group and these coaches give to all the students and members. The Academic Writers’ is an excellent service for anyone looking to find a supportive writing community. I have recommended their services to many folks struggling to reach writing goals and finish writing projects. - Holly PhD Sociology

The Academic Writers’ Space is so much more than a productive co-working space, although it certainly succeeds as that. The hours that I spend in The Academic Writers’ Space work sessions are above and beyond the most productive, successful working hours of any day. I have gotten more work done in my two months of using The Space than at least the full year before it. But thinking of The Academic Writers Space “just” as a guided co-working space misses a lot of what makes it so special. Space sessions are led by coaches who understand that academic writing is a complicated, messy process that can demand a lot emotionally. Coaches understand what it feels like to receive brutal feedback on a draft and are there to help pick up the pieces. The kindness and reassurance from the coaches of The Academic Writers Space spreads to everyone on the video call. I have never met a group of people who are as supportive and welcoming as the members of The Academic Writers Space. Space members are there to enthusiastically celebrate your smallest wins and commiserate with and troubleshoot your biggest struggles. The Academic Writers Space is a community of academics who are fighting back against all the toxicity that many of us believed was the mandatory cost of getting a PhD. Not only is my work going better than ever before, but I look forward to logging on to work with this group instead of dreading dealing with my dissertation. Haley, PhD student in Political Science

The Academic Writer’s Space has been two important things for me; First, it has been a place where I have learned invaluable insights, techniques, and methods for doing the work required to finish my dissertation. It’s hard to imagine that in a 10-minute talk (prior to each working-block) I could learn so much about how to effectively move past challenges and blocks in my writing and my research. Yet, the stories, anecdotes and analogies shared in those 10-minutes have stuck with me and have been a great support as I keep working towards my goals. Secondly, The Writer’s Space has, very unexpectedly, been a place where I found a community of encouraging, kind-hearted, and caring individuals who accepted me and welcomed me in a way that felt like I was coming home. I’ve often thought these sessions with The Writer’s Space remind me of my favorite yoga or gym class, where I meet up with friends on a similar “wellness” journey and get excited to hear what my favorite instructors will say on a particular day. Before joining the Writer’s Space, I didn’t think it was possible to look forward to writing and research, but since joining this group I have found joy and an inner confidence in my work. I thought by joining the Writer’s Space I would find a place that would push me to finally finish my dissertation, but instead what I found was a community of people who have gently guided me to be productive in a way that is authentic and kind to myself. - Erica K, PhD Student