

## Chat Transcript – ACRL Virtual Conference 2017

### Day 2 - Session 4 | Taking the Helm: Developing a Creative, Focused, and Accountable Writing Practice

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#### GENERAL CHAT/COMMENTS

Linda Miles: Hi, everyone! Welcome!

Linda Miles: Hi, everyone! If you have a chance, please use the chat for the "do now" prompt on the screen.

Amy Nadell [Phoenix, AZ]: Amy--Phoenix--meticulous and always striving to be concise (not sure if I succeed at either however)

Linda Miles: Thanks, Amy, for getting us started!

Lorenzo Gunn [Birmingham]: Lorenzo Gunn - Birmingham, AL --- Writing is rewriting.

Linda Miles: I'm Linda -- from NYC -- I am eager, but I tend to struggle with follow-thru

Linda Miles: Hey, Lorenzo. I love that!

Joy Harrigan [Cutler Bay, FL]: I'm from Miami, FL and I'd describe myself as a reluctant writer

Sarah Davis [Salem, OR]: Oregon (not Portland)- uncertain

Kristy Davis [Charlottesville, VA]: I'm from Charlottesville, VA. I'd say I'm a detail-oriented writer.

Linda Miles: Yes, Kristy! Details!

Susanne Markgren: Hi Everyone, I'm from NY (but in Baltimore today!) and I am definitely a procrastinator.

Laura Wilson [Worcester, MA]: Hello! I'm from College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, MA and I'm a novice writer.

Linda Miles: Welcome, Laura! I think you'll leave here with some ways to get started and on your way

Laura Wilson [Worcester, MA]: Great, thank you!

Martha Frey [ST-Lambert]: Hi I'm from St-Lambert Quebec and I'm a reluctant writer

Bill Hord [Houston]: Kathleen Dillon @ Houston Community College, Houston, TX

Linda Miles: Wow another reluctant writer. Welcome to you both!

Bill Hord [Houston]: Kathleen Dillon HCC-West Loop brief writer

Linda Miles: Hi, Bill. West Loop? is that in Chicago?

Richard Sanders [Canton]: Patrick from Michigan. Perfectionist.

Claire Nickerson [Hays, KS]: Hi, I'm from Fort Hays State University and I'm a methodical writer.

Sharon Murphy [Edmonton]: 3 from UAlberta: anxious, anxious, time-pressed

Lynn Ford [Indianapolis, Indiana]: California native, grammarian

UNH Library [Durham, NH]: Sarah from New Hampshire, I endlessly edit

Linda Miles: Oh. So much anxiety, UAlberta. Hopefully the mindfulness exercises will help

Bridget Barry Thias [Dallas/Texas] 2: Hi, I'm from Dallas and I have a journalism background

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Candise Branum [Portland, Oregon]: I'm from the Oregon College of Oriental Medicine in Portland, Oregon. I love writing but really need a deadline. A procrastinator-writer?

Bill Hord [Houston]: Houston Community College West Loop is in Houston Texas

Mary Kavanagh [Washington, DC]: I'm from Strayer University and I'm a procrastinator as well

Linda Miles: Welcome, Bridget!

Lynn Ford [Indianapolis, Indiana]: Maybe a better word is wishful. I have great ideas I have not put to paper.

Virginia Ballance [Nassau Bahamas]: Nassau Bahamas - slowly but surely

Kelly Diamond [Morgantown, WV]: Morgantown, WV Angst-filled is my word.

Linda Miles: slowly but surely. I love it Virginia!

Jeffrey Schaffner [Norfolk, Virginia]: Fortis College, Norfolk, Virginia, detailed

Joy Harrigan [Cutler Bay, FL]: Angst-filled, lol : -)

Linda Miles: Oh, no! Angst! Let's take care of some of that

David Rios [Riverside]: Riverside, CA; reluctant

Lynn Ford [Indianapolis, Indiana]: 99% perspiration

Lynn Ford [Indianapolis, Indiana]: oops misspelling. what I was going to say was that if you apply yourself to the situation, the ideas will come in the process.

Leif Madsen [Denver, CO]: recommended: "Creatvity, Inc." (the Pixar / Disney Animation Studios Story) by Ed Catmul

Linda Miles: Thanks, Leif! I'll try to remember to highlight that suggestion later

Leif Madsen [Denver, CO]: creativity is a journey not a destination

Linda Miles: Absolutely! I love the process, Leif. Sometimes too much and then I have a hard time bringing the project to a conclusion.

Claire Nickerson [Hays, KS]: Does it have to be in relation to academic writing?

Susanne Markgren: This exercise is meant for your eyes only, and is (according to Twyla Tharp) and honest self-appraisal of what matters to you.

Leif Madsen [Denver, CO]: the hardest part for me is "focus" - I am easily distracted & interested in everything (hence, I'm a good librarian)

Linda Miles: Yeah, so address academic writing if that is where you want to focus today - but no mandate

Bill Hord [Houston]: To communicate without being there. Many cultures many ways of looking at words and ideas. Emily Dickinson is my muse. Her poems let you feel something. I love the process and the result. Technical problems with equipment easily can make your goals exceed your grasp. Drawing.

Judy Lee [Staten Island]: I like the result better - the process can be a struggle.

Linda Miles: Hey, Leif. We're going to address focus in a bit. a challenge for me too

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Joy Harrigan [Cutler Bay, FL]: I usually hate both the process and the result, I never think anything I do is good enough so I'm reluctant to do it at all

Linda Miles: That

Claire Nickerson [Hays, KS]: Love the music. What is it?

Linda Miles: That's great to keep in mind, Judy--the light at the end of the tunnel, right?

Amy Nadell [Phoenix, AZ]: Muse: I have people whom I admire and want to emulate, but then I have the people in my daily life that make practice that ambition.

Leif Madsen [Denver, CO]: music to drift off to sleep by...LOL

Susanne Markgren: The music is from The Music Archive, and is listed in our Creativity "To Go" resource that we will mention.

Claire Nickerson [Hays, KS]: Cool, thanks

Susanne Markgren: Free Music Archive.

Linda Miles: LOL. Maybe sleep, but I hope just a lowering of the anxiety, angst

Judy Lee [Staten Island]: Yes, I helped write an abstract for a short-talk this week and when I finished editing I thought- wow, I never did that

Amy Nadell [Phoenix, AZ]: great

Martha Frey [ST-Lambert]: I prefer the process. Have a hard time deciding if something is finished

Judy Lee [Staten Island]: Obstacles include getting started, finding the time

Bridget Barry Thias [Dallas/Texas] 2: lack of time

Kelly Diamond [Morgantown, WV]: I like the process, even though it can be painful, sometimes more than the result. Often "deadline" means "good enough and done."

Lynn Ford [Indianapolis, Indiana]: Wow I really liked the activity. It helped me realize some stuff I've been blocking.

Joy Harrigan [Cutler Bay, FL]: I think I've found that the dissatisfaction with our final result runs in the family a bit. My brother was an artist and ended up quitting because he hated everything he did, even though he was extremely talented. I'm the same, though I wouldn't necessarily call myself talented.

Judy Lee [Staten Island]: This is a great activity- favorite creative activity - adult coloring!

Linda Miles: <http://bit.ly/creativitytogo>

Leif Madsen [Denver, CO]: Albert Einstein had a relevant quote (not exact) but generally "formal education knocks creativity out of you" - he took about a year "after University" to clear his head & think again

Judy Lee [Staten Island]: Wish I could take 6 months off to travel the world

Joy Harrigan [Cutler Bay, FL]: That would be nice, Judy : -)

Leif Madsen [Denver, CO]: I'm good a short-term laser-like focus - long term, not so much

Susanne Markgren: Wish we could all take off work to write.

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Kimberly Grotewold [Lancaster]: exhaustion if big factor--feel overworked

Claire Nickerson [Hays, KS]: Other--the lit review stage

Jennifer Eatough [Salt Lake City, UT]: lol. It is fun.

Judy Lee [Staten Island]: Yes- Participated in one session

Leif Madsen [Denver, CO]: rather like "shut up & dance with me" : )

Judy Lee [Staten Island]: There's a CUNY group

Susanne Markgren: Judy, is it an actual "shut up and write" group?

Judy Lee [Staten Island]: Not quite, Leif

Judy Lee [Staten Island]: Yes, Susanne

Susanne Markgren: Leif, dancing can be a "creative" way to get started with your writing.

Linda Miles: That's "write away!"

Linda Miles: I love it, Leif! dancing!

Kimberly Grotewold [Lancaster]: what is the activity--just write whatever we want to write about?

Leif Madsen [Denver, CO]: write in comment section?I can write (chat) rather quickly because of long-ago AOL chat roomn training...never learned to "formally" type you know...

Linda Miles: Hey, Judy, if you get a chance tell me more about the CUNY SUW

Kimberly Grotewold [Lancaster]: Missed the focus of this one--Was reading the chats!!

Susanne Markgren: Yes, write whatever you want: ideas, words, stream-of-consciousness...

Leif Madsen [Denver, CO]: having "something to write about" rather than "just write" is also a good idea

Linda Miles: Yes, Kimberly. if you are at the stage of brainstorming for a future project--use the time to brainstorm. If you are at the point of writing sentences and paragraphs. Try writing a section.

Susanne Markgren: Or the last paragraph of that novel (I mean scholarly work)

Linda Miles: If you need an outline--try working on the outline.

Linda Miles: LOL

Leif Madsen [Denver, CO]: idea - outline - paragraphing - full piece, review, edit, review again, edit, then "publish" (if you can)

Leif Madsen [Denver, CO]: as a writing instructor I had long ago recommended: in any paper: intro - body - conclusion = say what you will say, say it, say what you said : )

Linda Miles: Nice!

Leif Madsen [Denver, CO]: so, 54 here & all are writing elsewhere than comment section?

Bill Hord [Houston]: The easiest writing is to an audience of one. Be the one.

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Lynn Ford [Indianapolis, Indiana]: Leif--we were writing on paper or computer, not here.

Leif Madsen [Denver, CO]: it is a good idea...

Claire Nickerson [Hays, KS]: Feels kind of similar to writing by myself, but maybe if everyone was in the same room it would be different.

Candise Branum [Portland, Oregon]: At first it was difficult because I wanted to write something "important." But once I just started freewriting, it was much easier.

Lynn Ford [Indianapolis, Indiana]: I did not want to stop at the timer. Had to finish my thought.

Kimberly Grotewold [Lancaster]: At first I kind of felt pressured...but then it just started to give me the space I needed

Jennifer Eatough [Salt Lake City, UT]: Yes, writing groups I am in use this type of thing (we call them sprints) all the time. It lets us focus and gives a goal where we report to each other at the end of the time.

Virginia Ballance [Nassau Bahamas]: You can do this as a group virtually...

Bill Hord [Houston]: I think if you're a procrastinator, shut up and write makes you start and accountable

Martha Frey [ST-Lambert]: Had a hard time starting but I felt more focussed as I went along

Joy Harrigan [Cutler Bay, FL]: It makes me think of something I've done previously in writing classes, free-writing, where you just start and then let it flow from one thought to another

Kelly Diamond [Morgantown, WV]: It works for me!! \*try\* to schedule 30 minutes of writing per week, but try is the key : -). I think being in a group would be a help.

David Gansz [Shepherdstown, WV]: I realize it would have spoiled the surprise but I think that would have gone better for me if I'd known coming into the session that this would be an activity

Virginia Ballance [Nassau Bahamas]: and also use a timer...

Laura Wilson [Worcester, MA]: Yes, this is helpful. It was time where I actually allowed myself to not doubt my thoughts, and just let the words flow. I wish ACRL New England did this!

Lynn Ford [Indianapolis, Indiana]: Maybe I just need someone to tell me to do it.

Kimberly Grotewold [Lancaster]: Groups make you show up

Lorenzo Gunn [Birmingham]: I agree that solitude provides the best environment.

Judy Lee [Staten Island]: This is my second time. Although my grant proposal is still not where I want it to be, it gives me the time to focus. I believe that each time that I'm with others that it will get easier.

Leif Madsen [Denver, CO]: stream-of-consciousness writing is an excellent thing to practice - polish can always come later if "publication" is the goal

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Susanne Markgren: I think it is important to give yourself the time to write - even if you don't think you have anything to put down.

Bill Hord [Houston]: To isolate yourself from all of the distractions and interruptions.

Linda Miles: And of course, focus and productivity are soooo closely related!

Linda Miles: more than one thing at once--can't avoid it but it drives me crazy!

Leif Madsen [Denver, CO]: no incantations!darn

Linda Miles: LOL hocus pocus!

Leif Madsen [Denver, CO]: Dr. Strange is my current DVD obsession....spoken spells matter!

Bill Hord [Houston]: how do you get into the breakout room?

Judy Lee [Staten Island]: Always need plan B and C

Leif Madsen [Denver, CO]: thought break-out rooms might be problematic...

Linda Miles: <http://bit.ly/productivitytogo>

Martha Frey [ST-Lambert]: I use one that sounds like a rainy evening

Susanne Markgren: Well, we had good intentions. Sorry the rooms didn't work. I think it worked out well in the end.

Leif Madsen [Denver, CO]: crisis: having a network of boring, uninspiring people that you regularly are immersed in <sigh>

Bill Hord [Houston]: You get tunnel vision when you work alone.

Leif Madsen [Denver, CO]: also, many pile-on tasks that interupt productive time

Judy Lee [Staten Island]: Leif -remember to surround yourself with positive people

Leif Madsen [Denver, CO]: Judy - I try : )

Leif Madsen [Denver, CO]: How many exist in Linked-In?

Susanne Markgren: <http://bit.ly/Connect2Write>

LT Producer: <http://bit.ly/Connect2WriteResponses>

Lisa Payne [Richmond]: Thank you

Candise Branum [Portland, Oregon]: Great idea -- thanks!!!

Linda Miles: I'm so excited to make these connections myself!

Judy Lee [Staten Island]: Yes, I' was one of the first to sign up

Kelly Diamond [Morgantown, WV]: Thank you both!

Claire Nickerson [Hays, KS]: Thanks!

Linda Miles: <http://bit.ly/WritingPracticeMar23>

Martha Frey [ST-Lambert]: Thanks!

Jennifer Eatough [Salt Lake City, UT]: Thank you. It was a lot of fun!

Lisa Payne [Richmond]: good ideas!

Laura Wilson [Worcester, MA]: This was great, thanks!

Judy Lee [Staten Island]: Thank you so much.Your session rocks!

Leif Madsen [Denver, CO]: fun presentation - interactivity was excellent

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Erik Martin [Columbia, SC]: Thanks!

Lorenzo Gunn [Birmingham]: Thanks Linda and Susanne !!! and the producer too !

Kristy Davis [Charlottesville, VA]: Thank you!

Lynn Ford [Indianapolis, Indiana]: Thank you! This was a great session.

Leif Madsen [Denver, CO]: signed up too...: )

Bill Hord [Houston]: Thank you : )

Tara Smith [San Marcos]: Thanks for your thoughtful presentation.

Joy Harrigan [Cutler Bay, FL]: Thank you : -)

Linda Miles: Thanks everyone!!!

Judy Lee [Staten Island]: I'm giving my grant proposal another shot

Susanne Markgren: Excellent, Judy!

Leif Madsen [Denver, CO]: Here is me: <http://mydsn.net/Staff/madsenl.htm>

Linda Miles: Yay, Judy!

Claire Nickerson [Hays, KS]: Get back into my office! They're installing new carpet, which means they took all my files/furniture away to storage temporarily. Very hard to get anything done!

Kimberly Grotewold [Lancaster]: I really need to carve out time/space. Sometimes I just already feel so overwhelmed with my to-do lists

Susanne Markgren: Thanks, Leif.

Laura Wilson [Worcester, MA]: My colleague and I are writing a book chapter. I will definitely use what I learned today. Thanks!

Kimberly Grotewold [Lancaster]: But I know it would benefit me personally to do some writing because I do miss it.

Lorenzo Gunn [Birmingham]: I think that the large group exercise worked even better ... the anonymity provided by the group was welcomed. Great job guys!

Susanne Markgren: Thanks, Lorenzo!

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