

ACADEMIC WRITING: BOOTCAMP 'RETREAT' THURSDAY 05 AND FRIDAY 06 MARCH 2020 COLLATED FEEDBACK WITH RESPONSES FROM ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

What were your expectations for today, and to what extent do you believe the workshop has enabled you to meet these?

- To have protected time to write in a fitting space with colleagues who are also focussed on writing. The two days do provide protected time. This time around though I felt there were some distractions in the writing room (people chatting) and this was disturbing for my writing process.

OD Response:

We are sorry to read you found there were distractions in the writing room – we will make sure the facilitator stresses that the writing room should be quiet so that attendees can concentrate and that the social area outside the room is for networking/chat.

- No real expectations, other than time to write. The workshop met and exceeded these expectations.
- I wanted to write a grant proposal from scratch and by end of the session I'd the whole bid almost ready for submission, just needs a bit of polishing. At least I've the content, the structure and the flow.

OD Response:

That's excellent - good luck with the bid

- I just needed protected time to write and that is what I got.
- Yes.
- My expectations were fully met.
- I had planned to get a chapter that had reached a dead-end completed (of which a significant chunk was already written). Whilst I didn't achieve this objective, the workshop was invaluable in enabling me to understand why the chapter wasn't progressing any further and made me realise that the current focus of the chapter wasn't enabling me to fulfil the wider objectives of my monograph. The workshop and, in particular, conversations with the facilitator thus gave me important 'thinking space', which I had been putting off, and also enabled me to visualise the monograph more clearly and how my material fitted together.
- I did not know what to expect, and I was happy to realise I had all the time for myself to decide what I should work on. The support I've received was great.

OD Response:

Thank you for your positive feedback

How will attending this session benefit your work?

- I had been quite stressed about my lack of progress and the diarised dates, change of scene and environment enabled me to make progress, so this has lifted.

OD Response:

We're delighted to see you feel less stressed and more positive – don't forget you're welcome to attend the [Retreat 'Bootcamp'](#) in July.

- I did not expect to have one-to-one time with the facilitator to discuss my writing but found it very helpful and I received tips and advice I did not even know I was looking for.
- Made a lot of progress on a large grant proposal.

OD Response:

That's excellent - good luck with the grant application

- It was useful in terms of getting a 3rd opinion or external opinion on my work and the comments were really useful to reshape my presentation.
- I had one of the most productive day in weeks. The environment helped me concentrating fully on the article I am writing without being distracted by smaller tasks, emails or admin problems. It helped me postpone all non-research related issues to after 5pm, using more efficiently my best thinking time.
- Dedicated time to focus on my writing in a room with colleagues equally motivated to focus on their writing.
- The session has given both the chapter I was stuck on and my monograph a clear sense of focus and direction. It has enabled me to reuse material from the unsuccessful chapter elsewhere in the book and has given me the momentum I need to finish the chapter.
- I managed to restructure my work and understand better how to make it more coherent.

What changes (if any) would you make to improve this workshop for future participants.

- I would keep the writing room a protected and quiet place (ask people if they want to talk about something to go outside).

OD Response:

We are aware of this 'problem' and will ensure in future that the facilitator stresses that the writing room should be quiet so that attendees can concentrate and that the social area outside the room is for networking/chat.

- Perhaps people could write their name on a list if they wanted to join a buddy system for daily academic writing meet ups.

OD Response:

What an excellent and useful idea – we will consider this when planning future Bootcamps

- More detailed and specific feedback on the paper submitted before the writing retreat.

OD Response:

Thank you for your comment – if you would like to discuss a specific piece of writing in depth you should consider applying for an [Academic Writing 1-1](#)

- I can't think of anything – the format is brilliant and the flexible and sociable approach to writing is great.

On a very minor note, it would be great if decaf alternatives of the tea and coffee could be provided.

- ...better coffee?

OD Response:

Unfortunately Coffee is out of OD's hands – we rely on Warwick Food and Drink