

**TAG
YOU'RE
IT!**

**AN INTRODUCTION TO THE PAPER CHASE
COLLABORATIVE WRITING PROCESS**
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AGENDA

- Welcome & Introductions
- Honesty Hour: Pitfalls of Writing
- Paper Chase Method
- Best Practices
- Lessons Learned
- Q&A



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INTRODUCTIONS

- Please drop your name & role/affiliation in the chat
- How many manuscripts do you currently have “in preparation”?
- What are your current professional expectations for writing? (RPT criteria, annual reporting, etc.)

THE PITFALLS OF WRITING

- How many of you are currently working on a manuscript?
- How long have you been working on that specific manuscript?
- What stage is it at?
- **What are some of the reasons your work is stalled?**

Time

Co-Authors

Data Lag

UGH...REVISIONS

ENTER...THE PAPER CHASE METHOD

- Imagine if you could get all of the co-authors in a shared space at once for a long period
- Minimal interruptions
- Dedicated attention for writing the manuscript
- AND handle all of the revisions together through a collaborative approach???

~~Time~~

~~Co-Authors~~

~~Data Lag~~

~~UGH...REVISIONS~~

A graphic featuring the text "YES, PLEASE" in a bold, white, sans-serif font. The text is centered within a horizontal teal brushstroke that has a textured, painterly appearance. The background of the entire slide is light gray, with a dark brown wavy border on the left and a solid yellow vertical bar on the right.

YES, PLEASE

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HOW IT WORKS

- All data work is done ahead of time - this is purely a *writing exercise*
- All coauthors are present and available
- Scheduled, structured writing blocks that rotate after a set amount of time – each person gets to contribute to all sections
- Collaborative in nature *discuss authorship order early*
- **GOAL: Develop a paper from the first word through journal submission in 24 hours.**



BEFORE THE CHASE

CONSIDERATIONS & PREPARATIONS

STEP 1: RESEARCH QUESTION & DATA

- Develop a research question – make sure you have the data to answer it!
- Establish the analyses needed to answer the question
- Estimate the timeframe for the data to be analyzed
- Since this exercise is *dissemination* focused, a good rule of thumb is “use data you already have”

STEP 2: CONFIRM YOUR COAUTHORS

- Decide who needs to be at the table
- Authorship order – establish at the beginning so people understand their expectations
- Those who can't make the paper chase commitment might be best included as an acknowledgment, or be required to take on tasks outside of the scheduled chase.
- Plan for several group meetings ahead of the chase to discuss the project, analysis, and address any concerns.

STEP 3: SELECT THREE POTENTIAL JOURNALS

- Review their guidelines
- Consider the review time
- Create a list of 3 target journals (rank) and get to know the authorship guidelines for your top choice
- Consider special issues

STEP 4: CONFIRM A DATE AND PLACE

- Coordinate schedules with co-authors
- Typically, a complete paper takes about 24 working hours
 - Sweet spot: 3 consecutive working days or a weekend
 - Other options: 4-5 consecutive half days, 2 full days with 2 half days following, 2-hour weekly writing blocks over the course of a semester
- The writing space should be comfortable with plenty of outlets!
Zoom is a possibility, though less preferred



DURING THE PAPER CHASE

AIM FOR EFFICIENCY & EFFECTIVENESS

STEP 5: CREATE A ROLE ROTATION SCHEDULE FOR THE EXERCISE

- 1-2 people per paper section at a time (google docs is helpful!)
- Roles include:
 - Introduction
 - Methods
 - Results
 - Discussion
 - Journal Tasks – References & Cover



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Play to your strengths to start

STEP 6: PAPER CHASE!!!

- Write, write, write (Day 1 Goal)
- Fill in gaps & edit (Day 2 Goal)
- Refine & Submit (Day 3 Goal)
- Consider a facilitator to manage the assignment of tasks and to serve as a peer reviewer
- Consider a scientific editor to review prior to submission



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AFTER THE PAPER CHASE

STAY COMMITTED

STEP 7: SUBMISSION & REVIEW

- Decide who will handle the revisions once the paper is peer-reviewed (First/Last Author)
- CELEBRATE!!!
- Develop an infographic to pair with the finished product



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EXAMPLE OF THE PAPER CHASE

Alicia A. Dahl, PhD, MS – Assistant Professor – UNC Charlotte – ADAHL3@UNCC.EDU

Name 	Owner	Last modified
 Data	me	Mar 24, 2022
 Day 1 - Friday	me	Mar 1, 2022
 Day 2 - Saturday	me	Mar 1, 2022
 Day 3 - Sunday	me	Mar 1, 2022
 Journal Materials	me	Mar 1, 2022
 Paper Chase 2022 - MamaView		
 Reference PDFs	me	Mar 1, 2022

Name 	Owner	Last modified
 Discussion	me	Mar 1, 2022
 Introduction	me	Mar 1, 2022
 Methods	me	Mar 1, 2022
 Results	me	Mar 1, 2022
 Day 1_Compiled.docx 	me	Mar 26, 2022

Name ↑	Owner	Last modified
 Intro_Round 1_Sophie 	me	Mar 25, 2022
 Intro_Round 1&2_Alicia 	me	Mar 25, 2022
 Intro_Round 3&4_Annalise 	me	Mar 25, 2022
 Intro_Round 5_SB 2 	me	Mar 25, 2022

Day 1 - Friday

Blocks are for content generation; use breaks & group discussion time for Q&A or problem solving

	Shanika	Farida	Sophie	Annalise	Alicia	Priyanka
9:00-9:30 AM	Welcome & Agenda Setting					
9:30-10:30 AM	Results <i>Goal: summarize findings from survey analysis</i>	Methods <i>Goal: detail data analysis methods; review research process details</i>	Introduction <i>Goal: write section on SDoH and pregnancy</i>	Discussion <i>Goal: write section on strengths and limitation</i>	Introduction <i>Goal: write section on public health outcomes related to Black pregnancies</i>	Methods <i>Goal: detail recruitment & data collection processes</i>
10:30-10:40 AM	Break (10 minutes)					
10:40-11:45 AM	Results <i>Goal: summarize findings from analysis</i>	Results <i>Goal: summarize findings from analysis</i>	Introduction <i>Goal: write section on coping strategies for mental health</i>	Discussion <i>Goal: write section on recontextualizing reader</i>	Introduction <i>Goal: write section on COVID related to Black pregnancies</i>	Methods <i>Goal: paragraph form - detail the survey tools with # of items, measures used, sample items</i>
11:45-12:00 PM	Group Check-In & Goal Setting for next session					
12:00-12:45 PM	Networking & Lunch					
12:45-1:50 PM	Methods <i>Goal: detail data analysis methods</i>	Results <i>Goal: summarize findings from analysis</i>	Methods <i>Goal: paragraph form - detail the survey tools with # of items, measures used, sample items</i>	Introduction <i>Goal: write section on COVID-19 and prenatal care (racism, access, etc.) continuing covid problems</i>	Journal <i>Goal: draft cover letter</i>	Results <i>Goal: describe sample demographics</i>

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BEST PRACTICES

FROM A TIME OR TWO...OR SIX

BEST PRACTICES

- Use a collaboration tool like Google Docs with separate files for each paper section & day
- Upon completion of the working day, download and compile all paper sections for a “group read through”
- Live edit the paper together prior to submission for consistency & flow. Aim for “one voice”
- Save reference integration until the final day (use comment feature until then) Related: Cite as you go
- Create tables & figures before the chase

LESSONS LEARNED

- This is HARD work & exhausting in a different way
- Take breaks and energize throughout the long writing days
- A facilitator makes a huge difference in the efficiency of the team!
- Team should be made up of people strongly familiar with the project
- Active learning helps! Create mind maps, keep running lists of common terms/abbreviations, and discuss title ideas throughout
- Great way to pull students and community partners into academic research



**WITH THE
RIGHT TEAM,
IT WORKS!**

**PUBLISHED 5 PAPERS IN 4 YEARS
ADDITIONAL 3 PAPERS UNDER REVIEW**

**THANK
YOU!**



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