Productive Writing for Critical Race Scholars

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Purpose

- You are already a critical race scholar and academic writer. The goal of today is to use instructional scaffolding through group discussion to make us aware of what our strengths and weaknesses are so we can develop a cohesive strategy for productive writing.
Outline

- Self-Reflection I
- Discussion with a Partner
- Discussion with Collective I
- Discussion with Collective II
- The Academic Writing Process for Critical Race Scholars
- Resources
- Questions or Comments
Personal Reflection: What are your strategies for writing currently?

- Take **five minutes** of personal reflection to respond to the following prompts:
  - In one to two sentences, describe your **pre-writing** strategy.
  - In one to two sentences, describe your **first draft** strategy.
  - In one to two sentences, describe your **editing** strategy.
  - In one to two sentences, describe your **final draft** strategy.
  - In one to two sentences, describe your **post-writing** strategy.
Partner Discussion: What are your strategies for writing currently?

- Take five minutes with at least one partner to respond to the following prompts:
  - In one to two sentences, describe your **pre-writing** strategy.
  - In one to two sentences, describe your **first draft** strategy.
  - In one to two sentences, describe your **editing** strategy.
  - In one to two sentences, describe your **final draft** strategy.
  - In one to two sentences, describe your **post-writing** strategy.
Group Discussion: What are your strategies for writing currently?

- Let’s build a list of everyone’s strategies:
  - Describe your **pre-writing** strategy.
  - Describe your **first draft** strategy.
  - Describe your **editing** strategy.
  - Describe your **final draft** strategy.
  - Describe your **post-writing** strategy.
Reflection:
What’s working?
What’s not working?

- Now we have a list of everyone’s strategies. Let’s breakdown how these approaches are working for us.
  - For each stage (pre-writing, first draft, editing, final draft, post-writing), which strategies:
    - Do you rely on most often? Why?
    - Do you think one of these strategies doesn't work well for you? Why? How do you think you could be more productive with this approach?
    - What suggestions have you learned today that you have not implemented before? Are you interested in trying it? Why?
  - Now that we’ve learned about and thought through these strategies, we can put them in our drafting toolkit.
The Academic Writing Process for Critical Race Scholars

Pre-Writing to First Draft

- Format of outline should be abstract
- Your outline should cover how your project engages critical race discourse
  - Introduction and Background
  - References for Literature Review
  - Methods
  - Theories
  - Results or Argument
  - Discussion and Conclusion
- “Shitty” first draft (Anne Lamont)

First Draft to Final Draft

- Second draft fills in the gaps of the “shitty” first draft.
- Feedback
  - Workshops, writing partners, class questions, conferences, and reading other scholars.
- Editing
  - New knowledge
  - Formatting
  - Outline to Dialogue

After the Final Draft

- Stop seeking feedback. It’s over.
- Where does this document go?
  - Book chapters, journal articles, books, audiovisual and digital projects, or public writing.
- What happens after you send it out
  - Peer review is an additional round of feedback and editing.
  - Once you pass peer review, it’s published.
  - If you do not pass peer review, you incorporate the feedback and send it out again.
The Affective Dimensions of Academic Writing as a Critical Race Scholar

Why’s critical race theory so critical?

- The legacy of critical race scholarship as a knowledge project for the purpose of social justice is the recognition and dismantling of how mainstream academia perpetuates scientific racism to the detriment of people of color as an ideological dimension of the hegemonic colonial world order.

Let your haters be your motivators

- Critical social theory accomplishes social justice-oriented goals. To that end you and your research will be the object of scientific racism within the academy. Read and understand the perspectives of your detractors so you clap back.
- Not all kinfolk are kinfolk. The intersectionality of racism differentially affects people who are not read as cisgender, straight, American, or Eurodescendant. Disrupt all biases.

Self-Care is Central

- Plan your days, your weeks, your months, and your years.
- Take breaks every week and every day. Try pomodoro method and nightly cut off.
- Ask for extensions. Withdraw the paper. Don’t let writing consume you.
- How are you feeding yourself? Have you been outside? Have you had enough sleep? Exercise? Time with family and friends?
Resources

Where to learn more about writing
Resources for Academic Writing

- Article Writing 101: A Suggested Outline For Qualitative Work
- Academic Writing (#AcWri)
- Writing Your Journal Article in Twelve Weeks, Second Edition
Questions or Comments?