

MindtoPen - A Blog by Writers for Writers -

Challenges and Achievements: Navigating Writing in Academia

Blog Guidelines

Blog Goal: to share your writing stories, challenges, and achievements

Writers often feel alone in the writing process, yet in reality, they share many experiences that go untold. Many hesitate to express how they truly feel because there are few safe spaces to talk about their writing journey—what holds them back or what helps them move forward. This is your opportunity to share your story at a level that feels comfortable to you. Your story will help build a sense of community among writers and also help others navigate similar challenges. We never want you to feel unsafe; if you prefer, you're welcome to use a pseudonym or remain anonymous.

We want to hear your stories and how your experiences have shaped your writing process or approach to writing. Tell us how you navigated your dissertation or academic journey. This blog exists to share and connect, not to promote or advertise anything or anyone.

The blog is open to current graduate students, recent graduates, academics, or any writer wanting to share their writing stories.

Topics: Here are some suggested topics. You are welcome to propose a topic based on your experience.

- Building community with the goal to create support
- Building confidence in the writing process
- Celebrating milestones and progress (how to acknowledge achievements)
- Collaborative writing experiences (co-authoring, peer review groups)
- Dealing with procrastination
- Developing writing routines or habits
- Finding motivation and inspiration
- Managing stress while writing
- Navigating feedback emotionally
- Overcoming writer's block
- Overcoming perfectionism
- The role of feedback during the writing process
- Time management for writing (balancing writing with other responsibilities)
- Using technology and tools for writing (e.g., reference managers, AI tools)
- Writing and mental health (how writing affects well-being)
- Writing and perfectionism
- Writing confidence and Imposter phenomenon
- Writing for publication vs. writing for completion
- Writing in a second language (strategies and challenges)

Process: Upon acceptance of your article, MindtoPen's staff may edit the original material for length, content, and clarity prior to publication in any format. If you agree to the feedback, your blog post will be posted on our website. Once published, you are welcome to share the content of your blog by

sharing the link to the website or cite yourself, but you would not be able to include what you have written for MindtoPen's blog for other publications.

Timeline: We will let you know within 2-4 weeks if your blog is accepted.

Blog Structure

a. Introduction

- Start with a catchy hook: Use a surprising fact, a question, or a relatable scenario.
- Set the stage: Briefly explain the context of the topic or provide the background needed for your readers to connect with you.
- Identify the purpose: Explain why the topic matters; tell readers what they'll gain by reading (e.g., "By the end of this post, you'll know...").

b. Key Sections

- Organize your blog into clear sections with subheadings.
- Explain each section with your stories and your take-aways to make points relatable with readers.
- End with practical tips, action steps, or advice readers can apply immediately.

c. Conclusion

- Circle back to your intro and summarize major takeaways. Invite readers to comment, share, or apply what they learned.

Style & Format

- Write about 1,000 words.
- Keep title under 70 characters.
- Keep the tone and style conversational yet professional.
- Your voice needs to stand out.
- Consider short paragraphs, bullet points, and visuals for readability.
- Embed internal and external links.
- If you use sources, include a reference list.
- Use APA format.
- Write in first person, if comfortable.

