

# Welcome to the AuthorAID Partners Meeting 2016

#AuthorAID2016

# Writing Clubs: An Overview, an Example, and an Exercise

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## What's a writing club?

Writing club: group of people who meet periodically to discuss their writing

- May be face-to-face, electronic, or a combination
- May focus on the product, the process, or both

## Why have a writing club?

Usually writing clubs have one or more of the following functions:

- Support
- Accountability
- Feedback

## What are some types of writing clubs?

- Groups providing mainly feedback
- Accountability groups
- Write on-site groups
- Online groups with daily contact
- Hybrids of these types
- Other

## What's an AuthorAID example?

- Writing clubs at University of Colombo Faculty of Medicine, Sri Lanka
- For an overview, please see the accompanying presentation by Tharanga Thoradeniya.

## Coordinator Role: University of Colombo Writing Clubs

- Activities include recruiting mentees and mentors, formulating groups, coordinating monthly meetings and online teams, sending messages to motivate members, dealing with problems if they arise
- Helpful to assign one day per week







## Note

Many people find writing groups useful and enjoyable. However, some people don't. And different types of writing groups may suit different people. Thus, writing groups should be an opportunity, not a requirement. Also, having more than one kind of writing club may be worthwhile.

# In forming a writing club, what are some questions to consider?

The 5 Ws and an H:

- Who
- What
- Where
- When
- Why
- How

## Why

- What will the function(s) of the writing club be?

## Who

- Who will the members be? How will they be obtained? What criteria should they meet?
- Will there be mentors? If so, who will they be? How will they be recruited?
- How large will the groups be?
- Will there be a coordinator? If so, how will this person be chosen, and what will he or she do?

## What

- What will be done during the meetings?
- What will be done between meetings?

## When

- How often will the groups meet?
- Will there also be other regularly scheduled interactions? If so, when or how often will they be?

## Where

- Where will the groups meet? Why?



## How

- Other than as already specified, how will the clubs function?
- How will the clubs be evaluated?



## Exercise

Draft a preliminary plan for a writing club at your institution. Include the 5Ws and an H. Be ready to summarize your plan for the full group.

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Thank You!