



Working Productively with a Writing Mentor

Barbara Gastel, MD, MPH
Professor, Texas A&M University
INASP Associate—AuthorAID Project

Establish expectations.

- Type(s) of guidance sought
- Mechanism(s) for receiving guidance
 - In person
 - Other
- Time frame
- Other aspects
- *(However, stay somewhat flexible.)*

Make the most of meeting time.

- Prepare—for example, by listing questions to ask your mentor.
- Don't waste time asking your mentor things that you could look up yourself.
- If appropriate, help the mentor to prepare.
 - By providing items to review in advance
 - By identifying major questions or discussion topics beforehand

Learn from your mentor's experience.

- Find out about publication challenges your mentor has faced—and how your mentor addressed them.
- If your mentor has been a peer reviewer or editor, gain his or her advice from that perspective.

Be considerate of your mentor.

- If you want your mentor to review drafts, provide them early.
- Realize that the mentor has limited time.
- Show appreciation, for example by thanking your mentor in the acknowledgments.

Also be a resource for your mentor.

- A benefit of being a mentor: opportunity to continue learning
- So, for example, share readings that might interest or aid your mentor.



Wishing you much success!

AUTHOR**AID**