

The Five-Letter Word That *Should* Be on Your Summer “To-Do List”

Dr. Thompson’s Mentoring Tip for the Week

April 22, 2013

Dear Colleague:

The current academic year is almost over and summer is approaching. Therefore, now is a good time to make a list of your five main priorities during summer. Please use the following space for this exercise.

“My Top Five Summer Priorities”

1. What are your top five goals for summer 2013?

a.

b.

c.

d.

e.

2. Now, review your list and using the space below, write a summary of what your goals reveal about your priorities.

This week, in my last mentoring essay for the current academic year, I have two objectives. First, I want to remind you of several of my previous tips. Second, I want to share information about journals to which you may wish to submit your work. Summer will be here soon, and it'll be easy during this time to put your writing agenda on hold. If you do, however, at the end of summer you'll regret that you failed to get much—if any--writing done. For this reason, I urge you to place one five-letter word at the top of your summer list of priorities. That word is “**WRITE.**” Consistent writing and sticking to your research agenda will allow you to move closer to your tenure and promotion goals, and I'm certain that when summer ends, you'll be pleased at what you accomplished.

Previous Mentoring Tips

1. Try to write for five days each week.
2. Try to write for a minimum of 20-30 minutes daily, five days per week.
3. If for some reason, you aren't able to write for a minimum of 20-30 minutes per day, five days per week, write for 5, 10, or 15 minutes, and gradually increase the amount of time that you write.
4. Identify and address any fears that prevent you from writing.
5. Remember that rejection is a normal part of the writing and submission process.
6. The best way to deal with rejection is to keep writing and to keep submitting your work.
7. On difficult days, learn how to encourage and motivate yourself.

8. Keep counting your blessings.
9. Consider submitting a conference proposal to AERA this summer.
10. The NCES, U.S. Census Bureau, MetLife Survey of the American Teacher, AERA, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Great Teachers & Leaders websites are excellent resources for researchers.
11. Your colleagues can become great writing partners.
12. You can choose to use your research agenda to help youth and others.

Journals to Consider

The Negro Educational Review

According to its website: <http://thener.org/>

The *Negro Educational Review*, Inc. seeks:

- scholarly articles and research reports
- competent analyses and descriptions of social problems
- significant compilations and creative works.

The Journal of Research Initiatives

According to its website: <http://fsuoj01a.uncfsu.edu/index.php/SOE>:

“The Journal of Research Initiatives (ISSN: 2168-9083) is a scholarly open access journal. It publishes extended full-length research articles that have the scope to substantively address current issues in education. There is no restriction on the length of the papers relevant to any field of study within education. The journal publishes quantitative, qualitative and mixed method research articles.

Our aim is to encourage researchers to publish their research in as much detail as possible. Full reports of findings and methodical details should be provided.

Research may be presented as a single article or in serial form.

Educational Leadership

According to its website: <http://www.ascd.org/Publications/Educational-Leadership/Write-for-Educational-Leadership/Write-for-Educational-Leadership.aspx>:

We look for conversational manuscripts (1,500-2,500 words) that are insightful and helpful to K–12 educators. Articles should contain fresh information, be research-based, and give practical guidance that readers can use to improve practice. Examples from classroom experience are appreciated.

To learn about 2013-2014 “Themed Issues” and “Calls for Papers,” use the following link:

<http://www.ascd.org/Publications/Educational-Leadership/Upcoming-Themes/Upcoming-Educational-Leadership-Themes.aspx>.

Women, Gender, and Families of Color

The editor of this “multidisciplinary journal published by the University of Illinois Press, is currently seeking manuscripts for three forthcoming Special Issues.”

Please visit <http://www.press.uillinois.edu/journals/wgfc.html> for manuscript submission details or contact the editor, Jennifer Hamer, JHamer@KU.edu.

Conclusion

I hope that you’ll make writing a priority this summer in order to move closer to your tenure and promotion goals. Please also email me any mentoring topics that you’d

like for me to address during the 2013-2014 academic year, and any suggestions that you have regarding other ways that I can assist untenured faculty and graduate students.

Have a great summer!

GT: aka “No mess + no drama = a lot less stress!”