

PhD Accountability Writing Groups (PAWG)

A PhD accountability writing group typically consists of a small group of PhDs who come together voluntarily to support each other in their academic writing endeavours and promote accountability in their progress. The group serves as a structured forum for members to set writing goals, share their work, provide feedback, and hold each other accountable for meeting their writing targets.

To ensure that participants will be able to provide each other feedback, the PhD topics should be similar.

Before the meeting, participants email each other their document for review. Others will email written feedback before the meeting.

A PAWG meeting lasting 2 hours could be structured as follows:

1. Check-in (5 minutes)
Participants share their views on the writing progress, challenges they may have encountered, etc. This allows everyone to connect and provides an opportunity to address any immediate concerns or questions.
2. Feedback Session (75 minutes)
 - a. Presenter's Overview (15 minutes, 5 per participant): Each participant presents their work and provides a brief overview, highlighting areas they would like feedback on.
 - b. Prepared Feedback (30 minutes, 10 minutes per participant): Participants share their prepared feedback, referring to the written work or to immediate concerns raised during the check-in.
 - c. Facilitated Discussion (30 minutes, 10 minutes per participant)
 - d. Participants engage in a constructive discussion, asking questions, seeking clarification, and providing additional insights or suggestions for improvement.
3. Group support (30 minutes, 10 minutes per participant)
Participants offer support, suggestions, or resources to help each other. This can include writing strategies, recommending relevant literature, or offering to provide feedback on specific sessions.
4. Check-out (5 minutes)
Participants briefly reflect on their experience during the session.