



TEXT AND ACADEMIC AUTHORS ASSOCIATION

TAA Chapter Resources

Ideas for Chapter Meeting Activities

1. **Speed networking.** Break chapter members into pairs of two. Spend five minutes talking about three different topics: 1) their teaching interests 2) their writing interests 3) their hobbies. Every five minutes have one person in each pair change to a different table until everyone has networked with one another. This allows your chapter members to get to know one another, but more importantly, to form partnerships that could lead to co-authoring projects.
2. **Productive practices.** Have each chapter member share their tips for being productive in their writing. Write the list up and post it on your chapter website.
3. **Peer review.** Invite chapter members to bring along a work in progress. Pair up with partners to read and critique each other's work. Ask reviewers to share what was good about it, what was not good about it, what stood out, and other constructive suggestions.
4. **Share what you know.** Invite more experienced chapter members to share information about their publishing experiences as a guest "chapter chair".
5. **Group review.** Conduct a group edit of a rejected manuscript that a publisher sent back with suggestions for improvement. Using an overhead projector, have chapter members work together to show how they would edit that manuscript.
6. **Guest speakers.** Invite senior faculty members who serve as editors and/or reviewers at various journals to share what editors look for, and suggestions for getting published. Invite faculty textbook authors to share advice about some aspect of textbook publishing, or to solicit questions via the chapter listserv that he or she will answer at the next meeting.
7. **Study Cabell's Directories.** Bring in two sets of Cabell's Directories (available for all disciplines, they list all the journals out there in each discipline, and their acceptance rate, website address, style guidelines, types of articles accepted, and publication tips). This will give your chapter members new ideas for where to submit manuscripts.
8. **Work toward tenure & promotion.** Ask the dean in charge of tenure and promotion at your college/university to come in and talk to your chapter members about tenure expectations.
9. **Set writing goals.** Have each member set writing goals and at each meeting, or at one meeting a month, have them share any progress toward their goals.
10. **Participate in TAA Teleconferences.** Hold a Chapter meeting during a scheduled TAA Teleconference and put it on speaker phone. Encourage your chapter members to ask questions during the call. After the call, or at your next chapter meeting, discuss what you learned and what each information, advice or strategies each chapter member plans to utilize.
11. **Explore TAA Website resources.** Ask each chapter member to look at the TAA website and find an article, book review, essay, member service or benefit, etc. they think might be helpful to other chapter members and share it at the next chapter meeting.
12. **Conduct a Q&A.** Ask your chapter members to write down all the questions they have about textbook and/or academic authoring and then post them on one or both of the TAA Listservs TAATextbookAuthoring@mail-list.com or TAAAcademicAuthoring@mail-list.com and ask TAA's network of 1,600 members to share their answers.