

Faculty/Staff Writing Retreat
Fred Meijer Center for Writing & Michigan Authors
Reminders & Resources

- The writing room should be free of distractions. Please turn off cell phones and keep your iPods (or MP3 players) at a volume that only you can hear. You should always feel free to take breaks as necessary, but please don't have conversations or engage in other distracting activities in our writing room while participants are working.
- Let Ellen know if anything about the retreat's environment or structure should be revised during the week. The point of this retreat is for you to be productive; what do you need in order to achieve your writing goals? You'll have the opportunity each afternoon to evaluate the day's schedule/environment/programming, but feel free to make suggestions at any time.
- At any time, feel free to ask Ellen to read your work. Sometimes discussing your work with an interested reader is the best way to overcome writer's block—or simply figure out which of several writing directions to take.
- Would you like to get other participants' perspectives on your writing? Let Ellen know. We can organize a workshop for any morning or afternoon, where a group of us would read each other's writing and give each other feedback.
- A printer is available for your use. Ellen has thumb drives you can use to transfer your work from your computer to the one hooked up to the printer, or you can email your documents to yourself to be opened at the printer station.

- Do you value getting feedback to your writing, being held accountable to self-imposed deadlines, and surrounding yourself with colleagues who are also working diligently on writing projects? Consider joining a Faculty Writing Group! See the flyer in your folders for more info.
- Want to continue writing alongside your colleagues throughout the academic year? Take note of Faculty/Staff Fridays, which will be held noon – 5 p.m. on every other Friday throughout the fall and winter semesters. See our website for a complete list of Faculty/Staff Friday dates: <http://www.gvsu.edu/wc>

See our website for writing resources you might find helpful this week. Below is a selected list of books/materials on our shelves that you might need.

Reference Books:

- Dictionaries
- Thesauruses
- *The Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*
- *The MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*
- *The Chicago Manual of Style*
- Diana Hacker's *A Writer's Reference* (for help with grammar/punctuation or other stylistic issues)
- Other assorted style guides and handbooks

For Writing Inspiration and Advice:

- Joan Bolker, *Writing Your Dissertation in Fifteen Minutes a Day*
- Beth Luey (Editor), *Revising Your Dissertation: Advice from Leading Editors*
- David Madsen, *Successful Dissertations and Theses*
- Jane Anne Staw's *Unstuck: A Supportive and Practical Guide to Working Through Writer's Block*
- Eviatar Zerubavel, *The Clockwork Muse: A Practical Guide to Writing Theses, Dissertations, and Books*