

## Section II. Writing and the Self: Cultivating an Expert Writer

*I have this message ... I just want to send this message. I want to send it everywhere I can send it; I want to talk to people, I want to write about this, I want to publish about it, I want to write books, I want to write articles, billboards, skywriters. Sign me up whatever way. I'm really on a mission and that's why I'm doing it. That's why as long as I still think, I have something to say, I'm going to keep doing it.*

— Alice, Expert scholar

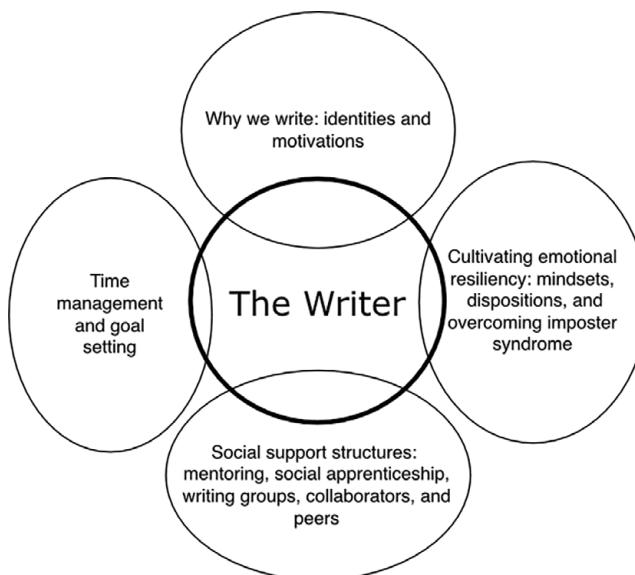


Figure 2.1 The Writer

In the first half of this book, we did a deep dive into the writing for publication processes: how expert and emerging scholars generate and evaluate ideas, how they create initial drafts of their work, enter flow states, revise their work, navigate feedback and much more. We learned that the writing processes of successful academic writers are nuanced, recursive, and messy and that revision often took them on unexpected journeys and trajectories towards publication. As part of this, we also began delving into the habits of mind and dispositions that make writers successful: curiosity, persistence, flexibility, and openness.

This information helps you have a better understanding of how to develop a successful writing process that works for you and to leverage your own strengths

to be successful. This information also suggests that writing processes for publication are more complex and nuanced than you might imagine. But understanding how these writers navigate their own invention-drafting-revision processes helps you have a much better understanding of what to expect as you start your own publication journey and how to successfully cross the threshold to expert scholar.

We now explore the writers behind the writing with the goal of setting you up for success as you consider your own identity, motivations, emotions, time management, and support network—a holistic view of yourself as an emerging scholar to expert writer. Thus, the second part of this book continues this work by exploring internal aspects writers themselves and the various relationships, motivations, dispositions, and skills that they bring to the writing process to publish successfully. As Alice’s quote above shares, being an expert writer is aligned deeply with one’s sense of identity, purpose, and work that they want to accomplish in the world. Beyond these core identities and motivations, emotional management is critical, as writing for publication is a very high-stakes activity where the chance of failure can be high. We also explore time management and goal setting—carving out the time necessary to be successful as a writer, which is critical in high-stress, demanding jobs where it can be very hard to find time to write. Finally, to conclude this book, we explore the importance of creating a supportive community for writing—which all writers in the study indicate that they do.

And like the first part of the book, the different threshold concepts covered in the chapters do not exist in isolation. Our identities and motivations impact how we set goals and carve out time, they impact our relationships and how we invite people into our processes, and they certainly impact our emotional resiliency, dispositions and mindsets. Thus, all these areas intersect and overlap into the formation of an expert professional academic writer.