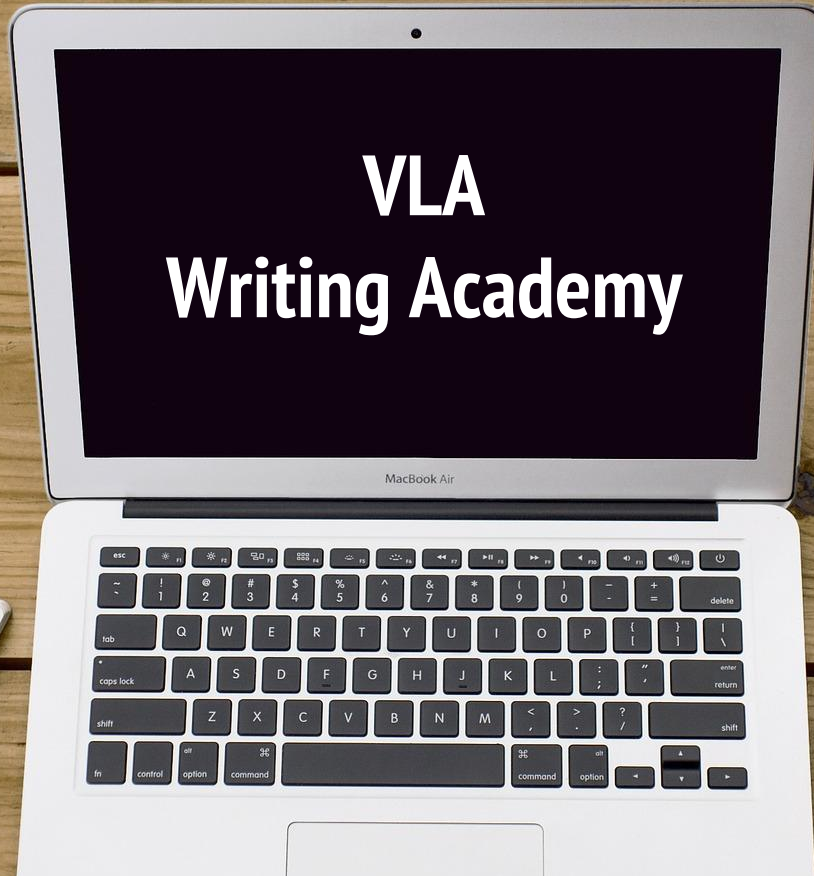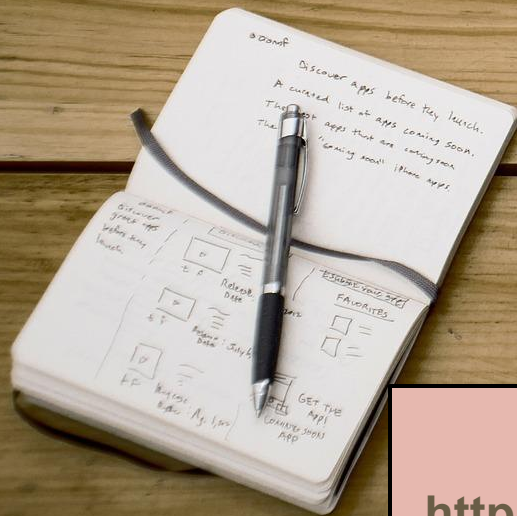# VLA
Writing Academy

Resources Folder
http://tinyurl.com/WritingAcademy-VLA-2016

Your Facilitators

Virginia Pannabecker, Health Sciences Research Support Coordinator, Virginia Tech University Libraries

Brian Burns, Interim Media & Access Services Librarian, Hampden-Sydney College

Susan LaParo, Head of Youth Services, York County Public Library

Robin Sofge, Youth Services Manager, Duncan Branch Library

Additional Virginia Libraries Editorial Board members:

Renee DiPilato, Deputy Director, Alexandria Library; Renee contributed to planning this preconference

Luke Vilelle, University Librarian, Hollins University

Introductions

- **Your name**
- **Institution / Organization**
- **Experience with Writing**
- **Current Writing Interests**

Session Plan

- **Planning a Writing Project**
  - Activity - Resources for Writing an Academic Journal Article
- **Choosing a Publication Venue**
  - *Virginia Libraries* journal
  - Activity - Reviewing journal scope, content types, and guidelines
- **Your Writing Project**
  - Working time
  - Feedback
- **Wrap Up & Questions**

Planning a Writing Project

- **Topic ideas**
- **Type of writing project**
  - **Preparation needed, research protocol?**
- **Co-Authors**
- **Publication venues**
  - **Who is your target audience?**
  - **What else is important?**
  - **Access / Copyright / Licensing**
- **Target publication guidelines**
- **Previous publications**
  - **Examples**
  - **References**

Planning a *Literature Review*

- **Co-Authorship**
- **Project Plan**
- **Key Components**
  - **Purpose / Research Question**
  - **Context**
  - **Approach / Methodology**
  - **Results / Synthesis**
  - **Implications**
  - **Next Stpes**

Planning a *Research* Article

- **Co-Authorship**
- **Study Design**
  - **IRB or other protocol for human subjects**
- **Project (and data management) Plan**
- **Key components**
  - **Introduction / Background (literature and context)**
  - **Participants**
  - **Methodology**
  - **Discussion**
  - **Limitations**
  - **Further Research**
  - **Conclusion**

Planning a *Practice* Article

- **Co-Authorship**
- **Project Plan**
- **Key Components**
  - **Background / Context**
  - **Planning notes**
  - **Implementation**
  - **Assessment Results**
  - **Lessons Learned**
  - **Next Steps**
  - **Implications for Practice**

Planning a *Feature* or *Column* Article

- **Co-Authorship**
- **Project Plan**
- **Key Components**
  - **A unique / stand-out topic**
  - **Identify connections between the topic and libraries / information broadly and in Virginia**
  - **Define subsections**
  - **Consider highlighting key players**
  - **Include tips and details of note**
  - **Point to resources, or contacts for those who would like to know more**

Planning a *Book Review*

- **Project Plan**
- **Key Components**
  - **Decide what you want to review**
  - **Research potential publications**
  - **Query publication**
  - **Read the writer guidelines**
  - **Study the publication**
  - **Write a draft**
  - **Revise**
  - **Submit**

Writing

- **Abstract**
  - **Journal guidelines**
  - **Include for all abstracts: Major points, clear conclusion, author-supplied keywords**
  - **Research Studies: Write a Structured abstract**
- **Outline and Research**
- **Draft**
- **Final Version**
  - **Find a colleague to provide feedback! → Revise**
  - **Check Formatting, Style, & Submission requirements**
  - **Figures / Images / Supplementary files / Appendices → these can be helpful for readers!**

Resources for Writing an Academic Journal Article

Each Group:

Read the article provided & Discuss:

- What are key points?
- What recommendations would you add?
- What questions do you have?

Choosing a Topic

Journal Guidelines

- **Consider your publication choice carefully**
- **About**
- **Aims / Scope**
  - **Target area**
  - **Target Audience**
- **Author Instructions / Guidelines**
- **Access / Copyright / Licensing**

Let's take a look at Virginia Libraries journal

Virginia Libraries Journal Focus/Scope

Peer reviewed open access publication by VLA

https://ejournals.lib.vt.edu/valib

Types of Articles

- Research Articles

- Best Practices

- Case Studies

- Essays/Commentary

- Themed Columns

Research Articles

- Reports on in-depth original scholarly research and analysis or research studies

- Examples include theoretical approaches to topics or issues or describe an issue in-depth

- Submissions 4,500-7,000 words

- All types of libraries

Best Practices Articles

- Should include solutions to issues that are affecting libraries today

- Examples: Moving to a one-desk reference/circulation service, and creating a digital archive

- Submissions 4,500-7,000 words

Case Studies

- More detail than Best Practice Articles

- Includes a description of the issue through fictional scenario or example from the field

- Includes references to current trends, theories and published works

- May raise more questions than it answers

- Submissions of 2,000-5,000 words

Essays/Commentary

- More subjectivity and expression of a position on a topic or issue of interest to libraries or library employees

- References, data and illustrations encouraged

- Submissions may be lengthy (3,000-5,000 words), or somewhat brief (under 2,000 words)

Themed Columns

- Synthesize brief reports on a topic from libraries across the state

- For detailed information on this submission type for the current year, please contact the Virginia Libraries Editorial Board: virginialibrariesjournal@googlegroups.com

Style

Chicago Manual of Style - Notes; and Webster's Third New International Dictionary, Unabridged

Editorial Guidelines

- Peer review types articles sent to two reviewers for blind review

- Articles submitted as one of the non-peer review article types will be reviewed by the Virginia Libraries Editorial Board

- Authors of peer review and non-peer review will be notified within 6 weeks of a decision to: accept and publish as submitted (with possible editing for style or clarity), or not accepted with possible recommendations for revisions to re-submit

Open Access

- The journal does **not** require authors to pay article processing charges

- The journal does **not** charge readers for access

Author Rights / Open Licensing

- Creative Commons Licenses:

  https://creativecommons.org/licenses/

  - CC BY - Attribution
  - CC BY SA - Attribution-ShareAlike
  - CC BY-ND - Attribution-NoDerivs
  - CC BY-NC - Attribution NonCommercial
  - CC BY-NC-SA - Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike
  - CC BY-NC-ND - Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs

  CC0 - Public Domain mark - waive *all* rights

Each Group:
Investigate a journal

- Scope / 'Aims and Purpose'
- Article or Content Sections
- Author Instructions or Guidelines
  - Submission requirements
  - Content Section requirements
  - Author Rights / Copyright / Licensing policies
- What questions do you have?
- How long would it take you to prepare a submission?

Your Writing Project Plan

Identifying a Topic

- Note:
  - Topics of interest
  - Projects or initiatives you're working on
  - Browse current articles in journals / magazines of interest → What is your take on the topic?

- Consider writing with one or more co-authors - if the topic you want to write about is a team effort; writing with a co-author can help motivate both of you to plan and see the project through

- Investigate journals / publications you're considering as a venue - do their content types or guidelines give you any ideas?

- **Write a paragraph or two summarizing:**
  - **Topic / Project**
  - **Major points you plan to address or discuss**
  - **What you already know**
  - **What you want to research**

Developing an idea

- **Start with your topic ideas**

- **Consider**
  - **Your project goals: why are you writing?**
  - **Project types: what kind of writing is this? (research article, practice article, other)**

- **Investigate the market and related publications**

Expanding from an Outline

- Depending on the article type

    - Develop a hook with the opening paragraph

    - Read through to ensure major subsections are covered

- What are your main points

- Depending on the article type, what are your sources

Revising a Draft

Feedback Exchange - Note for Your Partner:

- General comments
- What you find most interesting
- One question
- One recommendation

What are next steps for your writing project?

Questions?

(Interest in an online writing group?)

Please complete our short evaluation.

Thank you!