How to Meet Your Writing Goals With a Partner

If the idea of joining a writers group with several members sounds intimidating, you might consider finding one writer to work with who can provide support, offer feedback on your work, and/or meet for accountability. Creating a group with just one other writer can offer a dedicated partnership that helps you both achieve your goals.

There are two categories for partnerships that you'll see on the list of types of groups:

An **accountability partner** can help make sure you're sticking to your commitments and motivate you to keep writing and develop your practice. You can meet or check in regularly about your goals.

Another one-on-one approach can be utilized with a **writing partner** who meets with you to write for a set amount of time on an agreed-upon schedule or offers constructive criticism or other feedback on your work.

The role of a group organizer for partners

Create a group to keep you and your writing partner connected. As the group organizer, you are responsible for keeping the group's page updated and sending out reminders for any deadlines and meetings, as well as generally keeping the communication going. Posts are a great way to send messages and share information with your partner. You can also assign your partner as a coorganizer, a role that allows them the same permissions to access your group—this is recommended, as there are only two of you.

Getting started

You can use Poets & Writers Groups to set up a group in any way that allows you to accomplish your goals. Before creating a group for you and your partner, ask yourself the following questions:

1. Do you want to meet for accountability, for critique and feedback, to share resources, or all of the above?

2. What level of experience should your partner have? Do you prefer someone with workshop experience, someone who has already been published, or a writer in the beginning stages of their writing lives?
3. Is there a particular genre of interest or are you open to a writer of any genre?
4. Do you wish to meet online or in person?
5. How often will you and your partner meet? (For example, you could meet for weekly check-ins, have monthly meetings to discuss your work, or post daily messages for emotional support.)
6. Does this writer seem like someone who you would enjoy spending time with? (Keep in mind that the group will be just the two of you. This person doesn't have to share all of your personality traits—in fact, perhaps best if they don't: If you tend to procrastinate, an accountability partner who is proactive may provide just the spark you need. But they should be someone with whom you can imagine making a creative connection and who you would be eager to see on a regular basis.)

Use your answers to the questions above to fill out the details on the form when you create a group. Once you've created an accountability partner or writing partner group, the recommendation engine will filter the profiles of Poet & Writers Groups members to display suggestions for a partner who matches your preferences. Alternatively, you can search through writer profiles and send a message to get to know a writer better. You might even want to meet to introduce yourselves and make sure you're a good fit.

When you're ready to invite them to join your group, you can simply say: "I think you'd be a great fit as a writing partner! Please let me know if you're interested." Be sure to log in often to check for responses to your invitations. Since you're looking for one partner, we recommend sending one invitation at a time and follow up if you don't receive a response.

Establishing expectations

Once you've found your partner, suggest a date and time for a first meeting to establish expectations for each other. You can use the following questions to get this conversation going:

1. What are your writing goals? Is there a certain amount of writing you want to do per week? Are you aiming to submit your work to a particular journal with an upcoming deadline? Are you working on a query for a literary agent?
2. What meeting schedule works best for you? On weeknights, or weekends?
3. How do you want to set deadlines for your goals?
4. If you want to meet for feedback, how often do you want to submit work to each other?
5. What length of work should be submitted? Short stories, essays, or poems up to a certain word count, a chapter or section of a longer work, or a full manuscript up to a certain number of pages?

6. What kind of feedback is expected? Written comments or simply come to meetings prepared for discussion, or both? Line edits or developmental edits? General writing points or very specific suggestions?

You and your partner might come up with shared expectations that look something like this:

- Both of you will check in regularly about writing goals.
- You will come prepared to each meeting.
- If you are unable to attend a meeting, you must notify and reschedule as soon as possible and/or send comments and feedback on the work that's shared.
- If you consistently miss deadlines, do not attend meetings, or do not provide feedback on your partner's work, you may be asked to find another partner.
- Group members will always treat one another with respect and kindness and will follow Poets & Writers Groups' Community Guidelines.

Post those expectations in the group so you both have access to them. *Tip: Click on "Post" to create a message your partner can see and comment on.*

More resources

For more advice on giving and receiving great feedback for critique and workshopping, see our tip sheet for "How to Organize a Dynamic Critique Group."

Remember, if you run into difficulties, the Poets & Writers staff is here to help! You can always email us with any questions.