

## Writer's Block

It can be easy to get stuck when working on a research project. Do not hesitate to ask Mike or your lab instructor for help. We are happy to look at SPSS Output or drafts in lecture/lab.

### Questions about Getting Started

- Is X an acceptable topic?
- I am interested in studying X. What other variables might I look at?

### Questions about Writing the Report

- I am looking at variables X and Y. Is this the appropriate analysis?
- I am lost on what analyses to do. Can you help?
- Is this a correct way to write up the results?
- Are X, Y, and Z good examples of limitations of this study?
- Did I cite this article correctly?
- Is this a peer-reviewed journal?

### Writing Efficiently

- Efficient writers tend to use a very similar approach to writing
- Step 1. Outline the paper in detail, paragraph by paragraph, sentence by sentence
- Step 2. Find a location that will optimize concentration.
- Step 3. Using the outline, write a draft of the paper as quickly as possible. Do not stop to edit. Do not correct spelling errors. Do not correct poorly-worded sentences.
- Step 4. Once an initial draft is complete, go back and meticulously edit the draft
- Step 5. Wait 1-3 days, and repeat Step 4.
- Step 6. Wait 1-3 days, and repeat Step 4.
- Step 7. Wait 1-3 days, and repeat Step 4. The time between drafts will allow you to view the writing with a fresh perspective and catch lingering writing issues.