

Shut up and write

This idea is promoted by Inger Mewburn from the School of Graduate Research on her thesis blog the Thesis Whisperer: <http://thethesiswhisperer.wordpress.com/>

She describes the movement she heard about in San Francisco:

*A group of writers converge on a location, presumably one with good coffee. After 15 minutes of chit chat they, well – just shut up and write. They **write solidly for an hour**, then take a break for coffee and more chats before they leave.*

We tend to think of writing as a solitary activity, but it is good to strip writing of some of its mystique and give it a more routine ‘while I’m here...’ hype. The more we write, the better we write; and the more we write and share with others, the more opportunities we have for further discovery and development.

Where?

- Wherever your writing group meets
- In a café
- Any available space

How long?

Any time limit from twenty minutes to two x 30 minute shifts with a break in the middle.

What for?

A way to motivate yourself to get writing that journal article, that thesis chapter, that conference paper, that lecture, that presentation.

What do I do with it?

It’s up to you and the group. Custom suggests you take your writing away and develop it further into a longer or an edited draft. This writing is not intended for immediate feedback unless you ask for it for a good reason.

Check out the School of Graduate Studies website for information about *Shut Up and Write* meetings. Other doctoral programs involving supervisors and candidates have organised lunchtime *Shut Up and Write* sessions, and have found them a source of inspiration and collegial harmony.