

Tell me about working as part of a writing team. How do you break up the work? How do you define success? What do you look for in a teammate?

Most of the public, as well as my peers at the police academy, believed that law enforcement focuses on violence, adrenaline, and daily confrontations in high-pressure situations where one simple wrong move could mean the life of self or others. What we weren't prepared for and quickly became accustomed to was the sheer amount of paperwork introduced daily to police officers in the line of duty. It goes without saying, the need for efficiency and accuracy played a vital role in time-sensitive cases.

It quickly became evident that recruits' ability to write cohesively varied greatly. Successful completion of the modules on report writing hinged on us splitting the collaborative work in such a way that we could showcase everyone's unique abilities, rather than sticking to a rigid, predetermined assignment of duties. Recognizing that we couldn't under any circumstances sacrifice accuracy or speed in the name of collaboration, we divided up the work into chunks that could be completed by two or three recruits at a time. That way there was always someone able to double check any work completed, but allowed most people to work on something they were good at.

The first step was to reconcile witness and suspect statements, evaluate supporting documentation such as video footage, and compile all these documents into a first draft of a report. Since we worked independently, collaboration between teams didn't take place until each group had finished creating their objective statement of facts. Only after this was completed did we come together and compile all our work into a final draft of the report. I found that working as this writing team that emphasized on showcasing everyone's talents, led to a more cohesive and detailed end result.

I view success as personal and professional growth. I tend to look for success through challenges that encourage me to look at things from a different perspective and find creative solutions to problems. Alongside the hope for success, I look for teammates who value authentic relationships, remain aware of others and often know which tasks will suit each team member while being willing to ask for help when needed.