Part 1: Writing for Publication

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Turn Your Idea into a Publication

an ALCTS Virtual Symposium • January 13, 2015
Getting Started

• A little background
• Have something useful to say
• Start small
Tips & Techniques

• Start with an outline
• Methodology
• Tie in previous research effectively; draw conclusions that are beyond the local
• Stay on track; set deliverables
• Adhere to instructions for authors
• Ask a trusted colleague for feedback
• Read *The Elements of Style*. Be clear; omit needless words; use the active voice
• Writing is a process. Revise, revise, ferment, revise
Overarching Principles

• Your writing should be enjoyable to read
• Never marry your prose
• Know your audience
• Exercise your writing and it will get stronger
Collaborative Writing

• Harder than solo writing, but product usually better
• Provides more input; tests assumptions
• Requires a project leader to keep contributors on task
• Requires an editorial leader to normalize style and voice
Copyright

• Retain copyright of your work
Transparency

• Make data and code available
• ReadMe file
• Data repositories

CENTER FOR OPEN SCIENCE
Final Thoughts

- No prescription for success
- Write for ALCTS
Thank you!

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