Engaging in Research & Activities Leading toward Publication

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Be Dependable

* People will want to work with you if they know what they will get from you
* Hit deadlines, set deadlines when they are not given and hit those too

Be Organized

* Find what works for you (I have tried and use a variation of online calendars, paper calendars, checklists, spreadsheets, dry erase boards, visual schedules, and online writing groups)
* Be able to task analyze and recognize how many tasks you can get done in a given amount of time (then subtract a few because the unexpected is always waiting to suck up your time)

Be Energized

* One of my advisors wisely said to me, “When you get into your new position, do not take your foot off the gas.” People may say you are not expected to produce on day one, but why not try?
* This is a time to maintain contacts you bring with you as well as step out of your comfort zone to make new contacts and hope to learn from those you meet
* Be excited to get your work out and engage in activities that excite you

Be Ambitious

* I like to set ambitious monthly goals for writing
* I do not settle for one project at a time
* I aim to have several manuscripts (of varying types) at all stages of the process (conceptual, data collection, data analysis, writing, submitted, revising, in press)

Be Open, just not too open

* Learning from new experiences vs. Falling back into assistantship role
* Get your work out – feedback is a great way to gain new perspectives but also know that you know your stuff and do not need to be defensive or closed off to others who see things differently

Self-Assessment

When deciding if you should pursue an activity that may lead to a publication ask yourself….

* Will this help define my line of research or define me as a specific type of researcher?
* Will this expand my CV or add to my professional narrative?
* Will this check off a new box for me? (e.g. I haven’t written a book chapter yet, I haven’t worked with a large research team previously)
* Will this open a door for future collaboration or partnerships?
* Will this likely lead to a manuscript that fits the journals/audience I want to target?
* Will this lead to more than one publication?
* Will my position in authorship be worth the time and effort I will need to commit?
* Is this something that makes my heart sing or my blood boil? / Am I interested enough to see this through?
* Is this feasible given the projected timeline and can I be dependable given my other obligations?

If the answer is “Yes” to several of these questions, this activity is likely one that will benefit you professionally. Conversely, if you have mostly No’s, then you may considering passing on the activity.