

Boston University Medical Campus

The BUMC Narrative Writing Program (NWP): Writing from the Front Lines of Clinical Care, Education, and Research

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NTRODUCTION

Narrative-based education for health sciences professionals shows promise for fostering:

- Communication³
- Cultural competence⁴
- Empathy^{5,6}
- Professionalism^{7,8}
- Self-reflection to promote vitality and mitigate burnout^{7,9-11}
- Faculty writing groups and workshops may:
- Promote publications and presentations¹²⁻¹⁴
- Improve writing skills¹³⁻¹⁵
- Bolster confidence in writing^{13,14,16,17}

METHODS

We designed and implemented a cohort-based course to help faculty engage with narrative themes and writing skills relevant to their daily lives.

- The NWP curriculum includes:
- Experiential literary seminars
- Reflective writing exercises
- Narrative writing workshops

We are piloting the program in the BUMC Department of Medicine from January-June 2018, with monthly meetings held on Thursday afternoons.

RESULTS

We have conducted evaluations throughout the NWP's conceptualization and implementation.

Preliminary feedback has been positive, with participants expressing increased self-efficacy and competence in writing, as well as satisfaction with the program's provision of a designated time and space to engage in narrative education.

As a result of NWP sessions, participating faculty have expressed various commitments, some of which are included in the figure below.

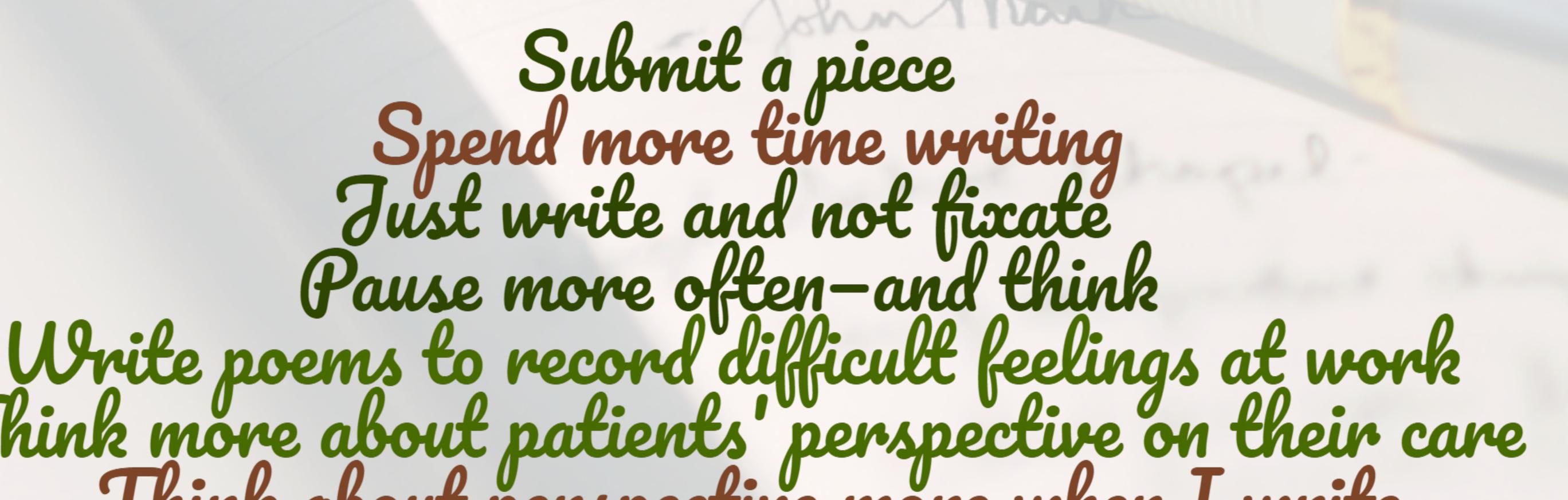
Writing groups, writing workshops, and writing coaches lead to increased publication rates for participants.¹⁸

OBJECTIVES

The NWP's educational objectives include:

- Developing writing competencies
- Aiding in the preparation of narrative writing for journal submission
- Fostering reflection and self-awareness for professional and personal well-being
- Supporting empathic engagement with patients, learners, colleagues, and self
- Refining listening skills to interpret personal

EXAMPLES OF PARTICIPANT COMMITMENTS



narratives

- Developing leadership skills, including emotional awareness, openness, and compassion
- Educating about the significance of narrative for career development

The NWP contributes to BUSM's strategic research and educational scholarship missions by investing in our faculty's academic development and personal vitality. hink about perspective more when I write Start writing as soon as possible Write more and worry less Value every moment Read more stories