

# “Research in Action” Podcast Instructor Guide

Use the following episode description, learning objectives, guiding questions and activity suggestions to more easily include “Research in Action” podcast episodes as a supplemental resource for your course.

# Dr. Margy Thomas on Developmental Editing [00:00-34:37]

Research in Action - Episode 176

---

## Podcast and Episode Information

“Research in Action” is a weekly podcast about topics and issues related to research in higher education featuring experts across a range of disciplines.

On this episode, Katie is joined by Dr. Margy Thomas, the founder of ScholarShape and the creator of the Build Your Story-Argument program. Margy founded ScholarShape in 2013 as an academic editing and writing consultation service, and through her years of helping hundreds of scholars develop their book and article manuscripts, she synthesized a unique framework for manuscript construction that is now the basis of the Build Your Story-Argument program where scholars hone their own Story-Argument models: flexible mental frameworks for navigating the process of writing and creating new knowledge in whatever forms and genres are relevant to the individual. The mission of the Build Your Story-Argument program is to put the benefits of developmental editing in scholars' own hands, in an accessible and self-directed form. Margy lives in Durham, North Carolina, with her son and their several imaginary pets.

*Segment One* [00:00-11:45] - In this segment, Margy shares about her work as a developmental editor.

*Segment Two* [11:46-23:07] - In this segment, Margy describes the elements of creating a story-argument.

*Segment Three* [23:08-34:37]: In this segment, Margy shares some of her broader philosophies on developmental editing and scholarly creation.

Show notes and a transcript for this episode can be found at:

<http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/research/podcast/176/>

## Learning Outcomes

By listening to this episode, students will be able to:

- Define developmental editing
- Discuss the different components that make up a story-argument
- Describe how to go about finding a developmental editor

## Guiding Questions for Listening

- What led Margy Thomas to become a developmental editor?
- How does Margy Thomas define developmental editing?
- According to Margy Thomas, why might someone seek out a developmental editor?
- How does Margy Thomas define a story-argument?
- What are some of the benefits of creating a story-argument according to Margy Thomas?
- What are some of the practices that Margy Thomas uses to encourage scholarly creativity in her own life?
- What are some of the characteristics that make up a good developmental editor according to Margy Thomas?
- According to Margy Thomas, how might someone go about choosing a developmental editor?

## Possible Activities

- Ask students to visit the show notes for this episode (<http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/research/podcast/e176/>) and look at an additional resource that is linked in connection with this episode. Students can write a short review of that resource to share with their peers.
- Ask students to visit the show notes for this episode (<http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/research/podcast/e176/>) and post an additional resource connected to the content of the episode in the comments section.
- Have students share questions that are raised for them based on the content of this episode. What would they ask Margy Thomas if they could?

## Suggested Citation (APA, 6th edition)

Linder, K. (Producer/host). (2019, October 21). *Dr. Margy Thomas on Developmental Editing* [Audio podcast]. Retrieved from <http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/research/podcast/e176/>

---

## Notes

## About the Research in Action Podcast

---

“Research in Action” (RIA) is a podcast about topics and issues related to research in higher education featuring experts across a range of disciplines. Episodes are posted weekly and include guest interviews and occasional solo episodes. Guests are from a range of higher education institutions and share their expertise on qualitative, quantitative and mixed methods as well as their personal experiences as researchers, research and writing practices, organizational and productivity strategies, and much more. Some weeks, bonus content will also be posted.

“Research in Action” is hosted by [Dr. Katie Linder](#), research director for Oregon State University Ecampus.

Visit the podcast website to view [show notes and transcripts for each episode](#), explore our [episode guide](#), learn more about how to [contact us](#), or [suggest a future guest or topic](#).

You may subscribe to the [“Research in Action” RSS feed](#) or access the podcast via [iTunes](#), [Soundcloud](#) or [Stitcher](#).

“Research in Action” is also listed on [MERLOT](#).

The “Research in Action” podcast is a resource funded by Oregon State University Ecampus, the university’s top-ranked online education provider.

## Contact

Katie Linder, Ph.D.  
Director of Research  
Oregon State Ecampus  
541-737-4629  
[kathryn.linder@oregonstate.edu](mailto:kathryn.linder@oregonstate.edu)

## Creative Commons License



This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International License.