

# 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. Jennifer Herman on Writing Retreats [33:15]

### Research in Action - Episode 61

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#### 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 of the podcast, the guest is Dr. Jennifer Herman, the first permanent director of the Center of Excellence in Teaching at Simmons College. In this role, she develops and offers research-based professional development opportunities for faculty around teaching and scholarship and provides structured support for curriculum design at all curricular levels. She is currently a co-PI on three major grant-funded projects, regularly presents at both national and international conferences, and facilitates multiple high-impact signature programs, including course design institutes, a teaching institute for Harvard Medical School, and faculty writing retreats. She has also worked as a curriculum development consultant and faculty writing coach for over 10 years, including designing training programs and curricula for the U.S. Department of State and the New York State Small Business Development Center. She currently teaches education courses in the Health Professions Education doctoral program, and also has extensive teaching experience in writing, literature, and GMAT, GRE, and SAT test prep courses. Previously, Jennifer was the founding Director of the Center for the Advancement of Scholarship, Teaching, and Learning at Niagara University. She received her PhD in Higher Education from the University at Buffalo and her MA in International Training and Education from American University.

*Segment One* [00:00-10:19] - In this segment, Jennifer shares about how she prioritizes research as a full-time administrator.

*Segment Two* [10:20-21:25] - In this segment, Jennifer discusses some of the benefits of communal writing retreats.

*Segment Three* [21:26-33:15] - In this segment, Jennifer

explains some of the logistics of working with a writing coach.

*Bonus Clip #1* [00:00-02:50]: Prioritizing Research Projects

*Bonus Clip #2* [00:00-03:50]: Juggling Multiple Writing Pipelines

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

<http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/research/podcast/e61/>

#### Learning Outcomes

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

- Discuss challenges associated with balancing research priorities as an administrator
- Describe important components of a writing retreat
- Discuss some of the benefits of a writing retreat
- Explain the purpose of a writing coach
- Review suggestions for seeking out a writing coach

#### Guiding Questions for Listening

- What does Dr. Herman explain she has found to be most effective in balancing administrative responsibilities with research priorities?
- According to Dr. Herman, why should most administrators *not* be engaging in research?
- What does Dr. Herman mention primarily dictates when and how she writes?
- What does Dr. Herman explain are some of the primary goals of a writing retreat?
- According to Dr. Herman, what are some important components of a writing retreat?
- What appear to be some of the overall benefits of a writing retreat?
- What is the purpose of a writing coach?
- According to Dr. Herman, why is it better to have a writing coach that does not have a background in the content in which you are writing?

- What does Dr. Herman suggest is one of the best ways to seek out a writing coach?
- What is the “expert blind spot”?

## Possible Activities

- Ask students to visit the show notes for this episode (<http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/research/podcast/e61/>) 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/e61/>) 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 Dr. Jennifer Herman if they could?

## Suggested Citation (APA, 6th edition)

Linder, K. (Producer/host). (2017, May 29). *Dr. Jennifer Herman on Maintaining a Research Pipeline* [Audio podcast]. Retrieved from <http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/research/podcast/e61/>

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## Notes

## About the Research in Action Podcast

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“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 – ranked top ten in the nation for online education two years running by U.S. News & World Report. OSU Ecampus has more than 45 degree programs and more than 1,000 classes online.

## Contact

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