

A Collaborative Co-Authoring Process Guide for Christian Writers

A Resource of the Connecting Coaches Research & Writing Collaborative

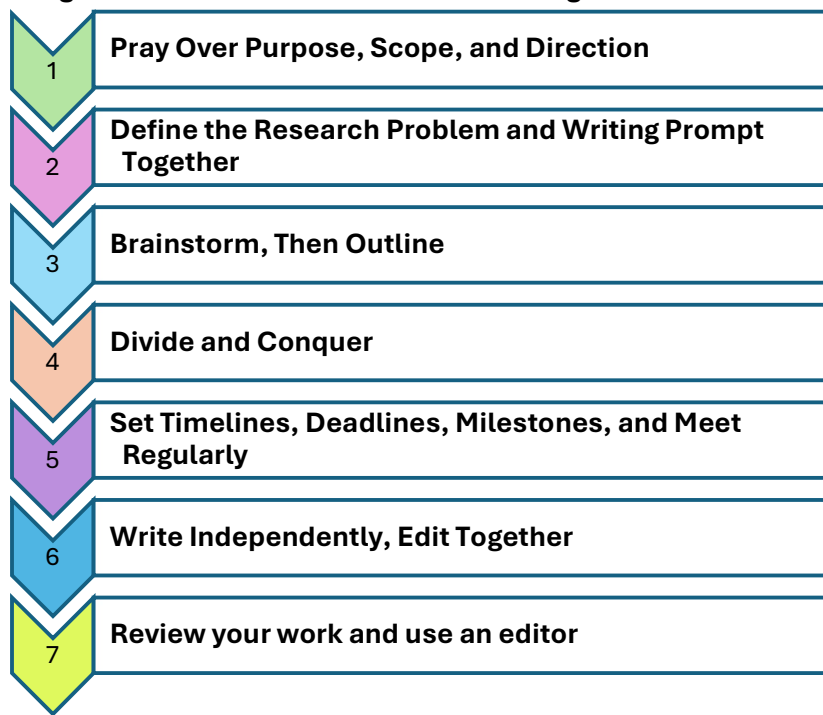
This resource was created through an inquiry initiative of the Connecting Coaches Research & Writing Collaborative (CCR&WC). This practical guide is for Christian writers desiring to accelerate practical-biblical research and writing, particularly in the field of coaching.

The Connecting Coaches Research & Writing Collaborative was founded by Dr. Diane M. Wiater. The CCR&WC exists to join practitioners and researchers for the purpose of advancing biblically based best practices and evidence in coaching.

I'd like to see co-authoring become a preferred research and writing process. When authors work together, the integrity of research deepens, there is clarity in thinking, inspiration and motivation are heightened and accountability is built into the work. This guide exists to support a process to help authors partner with God and one another to shape content, model the way for others, join voices of differing expertise, challenge one another's thinking, and draw out from each other what neither might not have and perhaps could not have said alone. It is a tri-fold collaboration, God and authors.

There is something soundly biblical about a collaborative process. Jesus sent his disciples out two by two (Mk. 6:7-12). Where two or more are gathered, there God is present (Mt. 18:20). As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another (Pr. 27:17). Co-authoring is a strategic Kingdom practice.

Diagram of A Collaborative Co-Authoring Process



Step 1: Pray Over Purpose, Scope, and Direction

Partner with God in the work from the start and throughout

- Pray over the purpose, scope, and direction of your project
- Pray about who to work with
- Hear, Listen, think, do, revise

Step 2: Define the Research Problem & Writing Prompt Together

Allow time for project preparation, process, and relationship development

- Hold an initial meeting to define the research problem
- Brainstorm the idea and problem statement
- Establish a shared agreement on the approach and scope
- Discuss & agree upon the terms of the partnership before beginning, and review often

Step 3: Brainstorm, Then Outline

Outlines guide the writer and the reader, create them with care

- Create an outline independently or separately (if separately agree and merge)
- Identify the strongest points and the authors who best support each section
- Don't worry about writing style differences; editors will fix tone and voice

Step 4: Divide and Conquer

Determine your methodology for dividing the work (expertise, passion, bandwidth)

- Choose and assign sections
- Clearly define responsibilities, action items, and timelines
- Document everything, decide on your file storage and use it

Step 5: Set Timelines, Deadlines, Milestones, and Meet Regularly

- Bring your best, and schedule independent time for work
- Schedule writing and collaborative sessions
- Determine milestones for accountability and clarity
- Use shared filing such as Google Docs to clearly communicate responsibility
- Communicate transparently and authentically

Step 6: Write Independently, Edit Together

Frequently save the project, every version!

- Write sections independently, come together for editing and proofreading
- Save every revision and notes
- Remember your relationship when indecision or conflict interrupts, or the project stalls
- Extend grace
- Remember that this is a partnership, carry one another and watch over one another

Step 7: Review your work, pause, and use an editor

Accuracy in writing, attribution, thoughts, and ideas is important. Once you're "done," put the work down and let it sit at least overnight so you can review with fresh eyes and revise before the final submission.

This resource was developed from a survey sponsored by Connecting Coaches Research & Writing Collaborative (Survey collection January and February 2026).

The Connecting Coaches Research & Writing Collaborative has been created to join practitioner and researcher for the purpose of advancing biblically based best practices and evidence in coaching. Dr. Diane M. Wiater is the founder of the Connecting Coaches Research & Writing Collaborative, it is housed in Wiater Consulting Group, LLC.

(AI was used in the creation of this resource to collate data, efficiently produce lists, reorganize content as directed by the user, and produce a diagram draft as directed by the user.)