

APPENDIX C

INTERVIEW FOR PH.D. STUDENTS

A. FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS FROM THE QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Are there any issues you would like to expand on from the questionnaire?
2. Follow up questions that emerge from the questionnaire (if appropriate)

B. THE PH.D. EXPERIENCE

1. Tell me about your dissertation now—where are you up to and how is it going?
2. How did you get your topic—was it something you initiated, or was the Ph.D. advertised? How did you get into it and how did you find your topic?
3. Is your dissertation a standalone project or does it fit into a bigger research project? How does that work in practical terms?
4. Can you talk me through the process you've been through so far with your dissertation? What did you do first? What kind of help did you get with that? How were you guided (and by whom)? What happened next?
5. Who provides you with feedback? What form does the feedback take? Does the person (or people) providing feedback rewrite or do they make suggestions for how you might rewrite? Are their directions clear? Have you ever disagreed with the feedback?
6. Do you feel confident about writing up the dissertation?
7. What has been helpful for you in writing for the dissertation?
8. What are the biggest problems you face in writing the dissertation?
9. Looking back on the process so far, is there anything you'd do differently if you were starting again?
10. Can you think of anything that is not available to you that would be helpful for you in writing up the dissertation?

C. GENERAL QUESTIONS ABOUT WRITING

1. When you're involved in a project, who decides what journal or conference it's being aimed for? Do you have a journal in mind from the very beginning? How do you choose the journal?

2. Do you use writing to conceptualise your project, or do you start writing when the project is fully formed in your head? Or when the research is complete?
3. Are you involved in collecting and recording data? If so, what kind of writing do you do at this stage?
4. Are you aware of your audience during your writing? Who IS your audience? Does it affect how you write? If so, how? Do you feel comfortable writing for this audience?
5. Have you ever written for a different kind of audience (than the dissertation)? How did you deal with that? Did you enjoy it? How did you go about it?
6. Do you feel, when you're writing up a paper or your dissertation, that you are being persuasive? Do you think there is a role for persuasion in science writing?

D. ATTITUDES TO WRITING

1. Do you think you're a good writer?
2. What writing do you find the easiest?
3. What do you find most difficult?
4. Would you say you enjoy writing?
5. What are some of the greatest hurdles to your writing? Describe some successful writing you have done. How did you feel about that? Why was it a success?
6. What is your understanding of the role of writing science (scientific writing)?
7. What might you perceive to be the relationship of writing and science?
8. Do you learn new things when you write?
9. Lifecycle question: do you agree with this model? Where do you see yourself in relation to it?
10. Would you classify yourself as someone who likes to finely prescribe a particular kind of writing (e.g. writing purely in your field to a specific audience) and do that well—or do you like new challenges, new audiences?
11. What do you think are the particular stylistic issues that are important for writing in your discipline?

E. LEARNING TO WRITE SCIENCE

1. Did you enjoy writing as a child? If you did, what did you enjoy? If you didn't, why was that?

2. Do you feel you were taught the basics of writing well at school? For example, did you leave school feeling you had a good grasp of grammar, punctuation, spelling? What about slightly higher order activities such as paragraphing or how to construct an essay?
3. Did you take any writing based courses, e.g. English or History, right through high school?
4. Did you have any training in writing science at school?
5. How, where, when did you learn to write as a scientist?
6. Is there anyone or anything who has had a major influence on you as a writer of science? Was it a positive or negative influence?
7. When you look at your development as a scientific writer, is there anything you wish you'd done differently?
8. Does the system you're experiencing, in becoming a writer of science, working well? Is there any way in which you could have been better helped to become a writer of science?

F. OTHER

1. Is there any kind of writing you'd like to do more often?
2. Do you write for pleasure? If so, what kind of writing do you engage in?
3. Do you read for pleasure? If so, what do you read?
4. Is there anything else you'd like to say about writing and science? Is there anything else we haven't asked you—about writing in general, or writing in your profession, that you think is important for us to understand in learning about how scientists become writers of science?