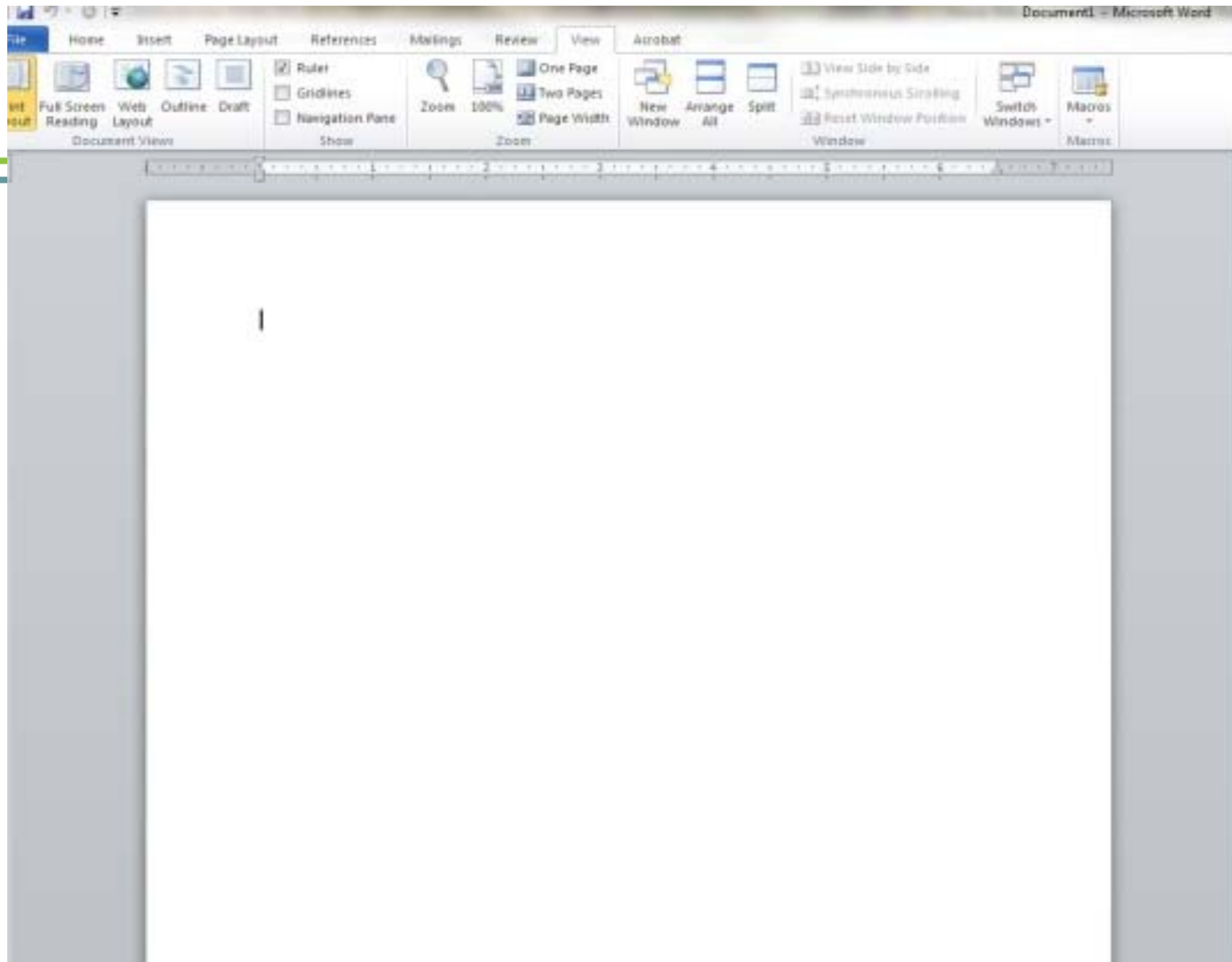




# Putting It All Together: How to Get Started When Staring at a Blank Screen



Kristi D. Graves



# Ask for Examples

Principal Investigator/Program Director (Last, First, Middle): Graves, Kristi, D.

## 1. THE CANDIDATE

**A. Candidate's Background.** My predoctoral research focused on improving medical patients' quality of life and health behavior change and included a meta-analysis on mechanisms of improvement in psychosocial interventions with cancer patients (Graves, 2003) and two randomized clinical trials, one for my Master's thesis (focused on improving depression in cardiac rehabilitation patients) and another for my doctoral dissertation (social cognitive quality of life intervention for women with breast cancer). During my predoctoral graduate training I also collaborated on two community-based interventions to reduce breast cancer risk by improving diet and physical activity (Winnett et al., 1998) and reducing tobacco and alcohol risk behaviors among high-risk youth (Sikkema et al., 2005). To extend my research, I received an NCI National Research Service Award Individual postdoctoral fellowship. The research guidance of my Sponsor, Dr. Michael Andrykowski at the University of Illinois at Chicago, included didactic, research, and clinical experiences in cancer prevention and control. I completed a randomized controlled comparison of expressive writing versus the control condition in a dissertation. The study aimed to improve quality of life outcomes in breast cancer survivors and linguistic outcomes from expressive writing (Graves, Owen, et al., 2007). I also gained experience through my involvement in other research studies as a research assistant on a team. Specifically, I collaborated on studies of individuals at risk for cancer (Graves et al., 2007; Kelly, Graves et al., 2007), cancer survivorship (Graves et al., 2007), and behavioral interventions with patients. For example, I served as a co-investigator on a study of women's responses to abnormal ovarian cancer screening. This project highlighted the role of family history in psychological and behavioral outcomes. Through this project, I became increasingly interested in the role of family history in psychological and behavioral outcomes for individuals diagnosed with cancer.

**B. Career Goals and Objectives: Scientific Biography.** My interest in cancer genetics began during my predoctoral training in cancer genetics. In May of 2005, I joined the Cancer Control and Population Sciences Program at the Cancer Center (LCCC) as a postdoctoral fellow to serve as Project Director for the LCCC Breast Cancer Center. One study focuses on long-term outcomes following genetic testing for *BRCA1/2* breast cancer susceptibility. A second study is a multi-site randomized non-inferiority trial comparing standard in-person genetic counseling for *BRCA1/2* (R01CA108933) and exposure to internationally-recognized scientists brought to LCCC through the LCCC Tumor Biology Speakers Series led to an interest in how one's attitude toward cancer risk impacts use of genetic counseling and testing. In pursuit of this interest, I received a competitive LCCC Institutional Research Grant from the LCCC to study differences between moderate risk Caucasian and African American

Principal Investigator/Program Director (Last, First, Middle): Graves, Kristi, D.

research questions and facilitate interdisciplinary collaboration; (2) refine my research principles to cancer control research in genomics; (3) improve my research skills; and (4) learn how to effectively translate and disseminate research findings. I will also consider the social, ethical, economic, and legal implications of genetic research.

## SPECIFIC AIMS

Hispanic/Latino women (Latinas) are diagnosed at younger ages and with more advanced breast cancer compared to non-Hispanic white women.<sup>1</sup> Latinas diagnosed with breast or ovarian cancer may carry *BRCA1* or *BRCA2* (*BRCA1/2*) mutations at higher rates than all groups other than Ashkenazi Jewish women.<sup>2,3</sup> *BRCA1/2* mutations significantly increase lifetime risk of breast and ovarian cancer.<sup>4</sup> The United States Preventive Services Task Force recommends *BRCA1/2* genetic counseling for women with significant personal or family histories.<sup>5</sup> *BRCA1/2* testing is most informative when it begins with a person diagnosed with cancer.<sup>6</sup> For most at-risk individuals, genetic counseling services are covered by Medicaid, private insurance and under the Affordable Care Act.<sup>7</sup> Increasing appropriate genetic counseling uptake is a Healthy People 2020 priority.<sup>8</sup> At-risk Latinas participate in genetic counseling and testing at strikingly lower rates than at-risk non-Hispanic white women.<sup>9,10</sup> The low rate of uptake is concerning given the risk in the population combined with available risk management strategies that significantly reduce cancer morbidity and mortality among *BRCA1/2* carriers.<sup>11</sup> Unfortunately, the traditional model of physician referral to individually-based, in-person genetic counseling does not appear to reach the majority of at-risk Latinas, including at-risk Latina breast cancer survivors.<sup>12</sup> Reasons for the disparate uptake of genetic counseling and testing among Latinas likely include less awareness of and access to genetics services; insurance, language and cultural barriers; concerns over emotional responses to testing and competing demands and priorities.<sup>12-19</sup>

Few studies have developed and tested interventions to improve awareness of, attitudes toward and uptake of genetic counseling for diverse Latina cancer survivors at increased risk of carrying a *BRCA1/2* mutation.<sup>15,20</sup> Many at-risk, less acculturated Latinas have low awareness of genetic causes of cancer and few receive care from specialized high-risk clinics.<sup>12,15</sup> When access-, linguistic- and financial-related barriers to counseling and testing and follow-up care are removed, at-risk Mexican-American women used genetic services at high

# Look to the Literature

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY  
Georgetown University Medical Center

Search this Site

Dahlgren Memorial Library

Menu

154

ABOUT THE LIBRARY

- Resources
- Services
- Contact Us

Ask A DML Librarian

- Email
- Telephone
- Walk-In
- Schedule Consultation
- CLICK TO CHAT - DML is online

UPCOMING EVENTS

No events found

MORE

**READ 2016**  
DML's 2016 READ Campaign

**QUICK RESOURCES**

- Journal Finder
- DML Catalog
- Ovid MEDLINE
- PubMed MEDLINE
- CINAHL
- Clinical Quick Reference
- Core Databases
- All Databases
- All eBooks
- Research & Subject Guides

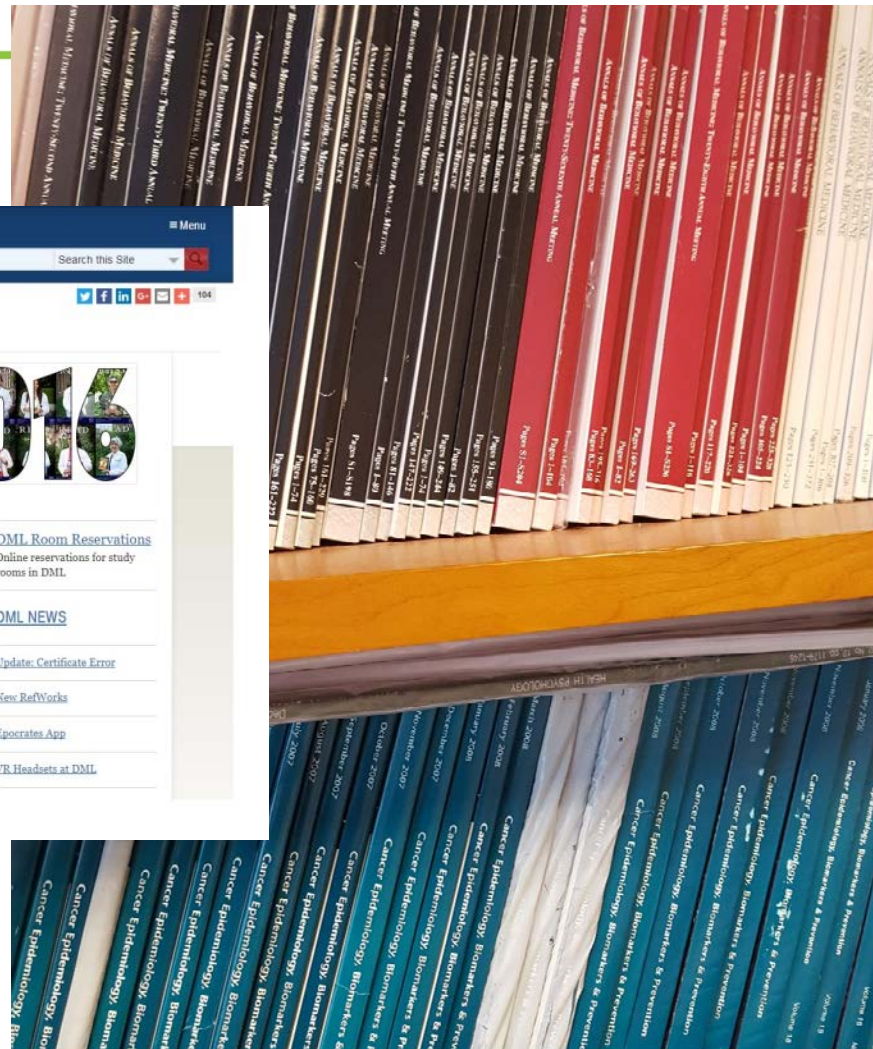
**QUICK SERVICES**

- DML Room Reservations
- Interlibrary Loan
- Access Services
- Education Services
- Research Services
- All Services

**DML Room Reservations**  
Online reservations for study rooms in DML

**DML NEWS**

- Update: Certificate Error
- New RefWorks
- Epubs App
- YR Headsets at DML



## Talk to Colleagues



# Don't (Over) Think, Just Write



## EDITING MARKS

¶ Amnesty International is a worldwide human rights organization. There are over 1,000,000 members in A.I. and more than three hundred thousand of them live in the USA.

spell  
use figures

transpose  
sp. [International Amnesty] memmbers write letters to governments that are hurting people or are allowing people to be hurt.

no paragraph  
flush left  
→ When Soldiers or police are harming ordinary people Amnesty Inter\_national finds out. The headquarters of A.I. in London sends this information all [the world to committed letter-writers.

indent  
lower case  
→ Government officials receive hundreds or thousands of letters from ordinary people protesting the mistreatment of of detainees. Governments do do not like to be looked upon as cruel, barbaric, and uncivilized, even when they are being cruel, barbaric, and uncivilized!

paragraph  
period  
capitals  
spelling  
separate  
join  
over  
erase  
erase  
boldface

## Cut and Paste from Your Prior Work

- Be aware of copyright issues!
- Consider adapting study timelines, measure tables, conceptual figures, etc.



shutterstock · 147525260



## Seek Input as Ideas Come Together

- IdeaLab
- 5 in 5 (5 minutes with 5 slides) for initial feedback
- Mock Grant Reviews