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Building a community of writers in a university

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Building a community of writers in a university

Take one university...

-  20 hours teaching per week
-  High number of 'second-career' academics
-  Focus on applied courses
-  Key priority: improved position in REF



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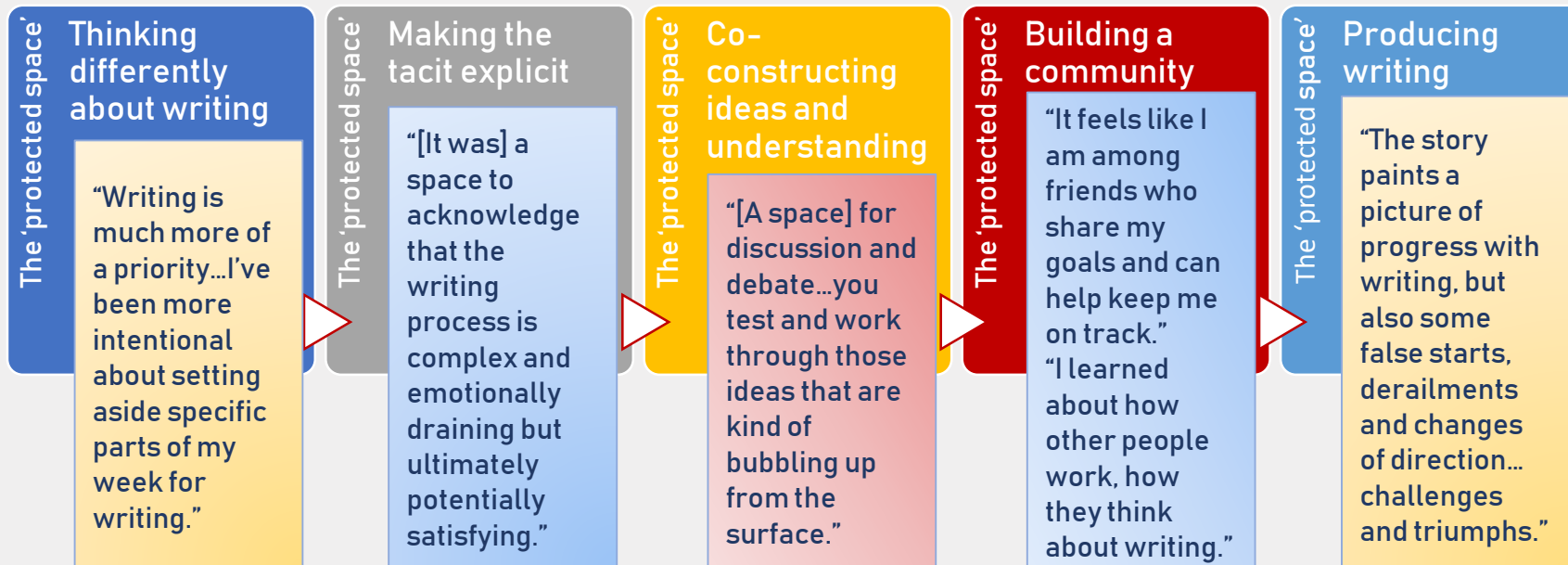
...12 academics...

...one writing group



What is the role of a writing community in developing the writing practices of academics?

An ethnographic study: telling their stories



The end of a chapter



- Writing spaces need to be:
- About *process* before *productivity*
 - Both *social* and *individual*
 - Both *visible* and *protected*



Participants developed a more coherent sense of their wider academic identity and began to see writing as a legitimate and valuable activity.



The interplay between individual and institutional is key: the University needs to clearly articulate the nature and purpose of writing within the institution.