Attributes of Successful Papers (Hitting Academic Home Runs)

What does SUCCESS look like?

Quality
- papers that might be selected for inclusion in a doctoral syllabus or win awards

Influential
- creates conversation amongst others and is cited and discussed by them

Impact
- work that contributes to or changes the intellectual conversation about its topic

Published
- published in your field’s top outlets including 4* journals

Your home run benefits you and your team

Quality over Quantity: “...those who write fewer but high-quality papers earlier in their careers go on to also write fewer but high-quality papers later in their careers; while those who write a large number of poorly cited papers will continue to write lots of poorly cited papers.” (Bergh, Perry, & Hanke, 2006)

Characteristics of high impact IDEAS

Fundamental
- addresses broad themes that are relevant to many groups with different interests

Juxtaposition
- juxtaposing ideas that are not often seen together

Simple and Communicable
- people are interested in and will remember ideas that they can understand and convey to others

Personally Relevant
- increases motivation to work on and discover answers

Timely
- influences and is influenced by what is happening in the world currently

Characteristics of a high-impact creative PROCESS

High Commitment - High Effort
- Involves intense work, overcoming obstacles and determination in the face of adversity. You might have bigger “chunks” of research to tackle. Obstacles do not mean your work is a bad idea.

You may need personal conviction (eg, your research will help people or convey an important message). Your work may not end once published because it is a topic that is important to you rather than a tick-box exercise.

Enabling support
- You will not hit your home run alone. Get support from your team. Support may be in the form of critique and debate to help hone your work. Peers may discuss and view your work informally or at conferences.

Reviewers may rip your work to shreds and editors help you patch it up. From hostile reviewers to supportive editors, each player is a part of the process to achieve success.

Loose-tight properties
- Tight: Get the details right. Set the feeling and the tone. Craft your work carefully. Pay attention to detail in your analyses.

Loose: Be flexible and improvise. As conditions unfold you may find you need to improvise. Your data may lead you in a different direction or you may uncover surprises which could enhance your work.

Stand Out Attributes
- Added extras: coin new terms, label a concept, use interesting samples

- Controversy: stimulate and influence actual conversations that get people talking, debating and questioning.

"Don't settle! Don't settle artistically, don't settle methodologically, don't settle conceptually, and don't settle politically. Focus on topics to which you resonate, take the risks that need to be taken, get the details right, add a little sex appeal, and keep going no matter what the roadblocks.” (Ashford, 2013)