

Regents of the University of California

Yes, Professor

Author(s): Sue Saltmarsh

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Yes, Professor

Sue Saltmarsh

Yes, I'd love to write a paper with you.

Yes, I'll write the first draft.

Yes, I'll write the next draft

- incorporating
- your
- suggestions.

Yes, I'll add in more references to your work.

Yes, I'll submit the manuscript.

Yes, I'll do the revisions, and yes, I'll finish the proofs

While you are giving a keynote in Europe.

You will be first author, and yes, I will remember to

Be grateful,

smile politely, and
speak nothing of it.

Yes, this will be good for my career.

Yes, this will look excellent on my resume.

Yes, this will lead to other opportunities

- but not here, not yet
- I'm just the research assistant
- and I have to start somewhere.

Yes, I'll teach your class, and that one too.

Yes, I'll prepare your literature review.

Yes, I'll draft the grant application for you

Though my name will not be on it.

Because you're a professor, and yes, I understand

That research assistants can't ever

be on an equal footing
or a grant application.

Yes, I'll come to your presentation.

Yes, I'll encourage others to come along too.

Yes, I'll ask informed, well-considered questions

- after all, it's my research
- that you're presenting
- as though it was your own.

Yes, we're all in this together, and 'working as a team.'
Yes, promoting this new knowledge is important, and
Yes, you are the acknowledged expert
 Though at whose expense is difficult to say.
Mine, for one, and what about the others? And yes, our turn will come
But will 'Yes, Professor'
 mean something different then,
 or have we learned too well from you already?



Sue Saltmarsh teaches at the Australian Catholic University.