

FREEWRITING

Initiating and Sustaining the Flow of Writing

1. **Freewriting**-writing down anything

2. **Nonstop Writing or Free Association**

Write topic or title at top of page, then write whatever comes to mind. If you get stuck, keep writing the last word over and over.

3. **Oral Composition** (esp. good for careful planners)

Have them talk through the beginning, line by line, with another person before committing anything to paper.

4. **Start in the Middle**

Maybe unblock by ignoring the opening paragraph altogether-save till later. Peter Elbow writes, “Trying to get the beginning just right is a formula for failure—and probably a secret tactic to make yourself give up writing” (Writing Without Teachers, p. 6).

5. **Dictation**

- a. Say ideas to another and let that person write it down
- b. Say ideas into a tape recorder. (We have 2 for student use in the lab).

REMEMBER: Sustaining the flow is generally easier than initiating it.