

6 Steps to Writing Imaginatively

1 Incubate

Daydream, eavesdrop, watch the world, tell yourself stories, listen. Take notes. Keep secrets.

2 Scribble

Write out the fragments that you have incubated. Freewrite, have fun, misspell words and forget about making sense.

3 Reimagine

Shape your words into something bigger. Add sense, meaning, and connections. Rearrange the furniture.

4 Distance

Put your words away for a while, or get useful feedback from a teacher, an editor, or a peer.

5 Revise

Rewrite with a cool eye. Make your writing become what it wants to be. Proofread. Aim for clarity. Cut anything that bores you.

6 Release

Let it go! Turn your words into a zine, post to your blog, write it out in your journal, send it to a magazine.

Start over.