

Freewriting



Freewriting is one of the simplest yet most productive exercises you will do in this class. It is a way of getting yourself to write. The technique is easy. Take out a pen and a blank piece of paper. Note the time and start writing. Write for ten minutes. Do not think about spelling, grammar, punctuation or organization. Just keep writing. Do not stop even if the only thing you can write is "I have nothing to write about." The writing is just for you. No one else will read it nor do you have to hand it in.

Simple Steps

1. Sit down at a desk with pen and paper, ideally in some quiet place, though freewriting can be done anywhere. Deadlines and time-limits are amazing devices for activating your ability to concentrate.
2. Set your timer for ten minutes.
3. Write without stopping until the timer goes off. **Do not lift your pen** from the paper, even if this means writing, "I don't know what to write," over and over again. Write nonsense, write anything, but don't stop writing.
4. Don't worry about spelling or making sense. Grammar is also not important at this point. Just freewrite!

Try it now in class. Your teacher will give you a topic.

Discuss

Turn to a classmate and discuss the following questions

1. What do you think of the freewriting suggestion?
2. What do you think freewriting would improve, or not improve your writing.