**Beating Writer’s Block – 15/04/2020 – Mimo Caenepeel**

**What is it like ?**

* Anxiety, sweting, heart beats faster
* Ideas get mixed in my brains and can’t think properly, in a structured way
* Want to cry
* Writing with no flow, short paragraphs
* Tend to copy and past things

**When do you get stuck?**

In the beginning or when I restart working on it. I tend to add information “out of subject” by losing the red line of my chapter (=the main idea).

**What do you do?**

Restart in a new document by extracting only the wanted ideas + Re-arrange paragraphs / sentences

Read literature to get some ideas / reference hunt

Do simpler tasks, make a break, clear my mind by going out

* Looking back can lead to getting stuck
* Choice: do simpler task, look back and get stuck in the loop or look forward but write not good quality text.

**Create a ventilation file:** what makes you angry?

This is not focused on a particular point. Please reference what you write. This has already be done, you need to read more and come back later to your text to bring something new.

**PROCESS**

**Drafting : focus on content, not style = continuing to move forward / non-stop writing, even if we drop things, including style**

[content = key idea that came out from own research] I am trying to say that heat distribution in coal mines depends on different factors, both natural conditions (geothermal gradient, heat flux, presence of groundwater…) and on the effects of human activities (mining) that tends to perturbates the natural conditions, including the geothermal gradient through the implementation of dewatering/ventilation.

[meaning = what is inferred from that, impact] What I really mean is that mining modify the natural conditions, perturbate groundwater flow, so it is hard to predict how fast the return to equilibrium takes. To answer that question, we need to know what are the main heat sources, the dominant processes of heat transfer, to know at which stage of heat recovery will be at the moment of the start of production (geothermal prod). Is the gradient as before ? How the geometry of the mine contributing to modifying the original heat distribution?

Previous authors suggested … But What boundary conditions have they used?

**Early revision (high level editing) - Back reading of draft:**

Sketchnote + Cut up your text in sections / paragraphs

Possibly reorganise structure, ideas should support main arguments: What belongs where, how links follow each other if paragraphs are moved?

Need to take some breaks to clear your mind

In the end, overall structure should be there with arguments 🡪 important things

But long-term thinking (coming back and forth to that stage is possible)

Get software support (scrivener)

**Line by line (micro-) editing**

Start to think about the style, the expression, language used; different options

Check if no paraphrasing?

LEAVE AND COME BACK TO SEE WHAT THE TEXT NEEDS (take a step back and read it as if it was the first time a few hours/days later)

**Proof reading**

Referencing

Software support (whitesmoke, Grammarly)

Read printed papers

Correctness, consistency, scientific terms

Read it after letting it aside for a while so more likely to see obvious mistakes

Make it read by somebody else

**Pomodoros technic**

* Work for a period of efficient working with no distraction (i.e. 45 min) and then make a break without thinking of that task