

WRITING TIPS 101

DEFEATING WRITER'S BLOCK

WHAT IS WRITER'S BLOCK?

Writer's block is the struggle to generate ideas and start writing. Don't worry! This is a **completely normal reaction** to writing, especially when it is for a grade. Use the strategies in this handout to get your writing started.



PREWRITING

- Free yourself of your inner critic
- Brainstorm ideas to write about
- Doodle/map out/list out your ideas
- Record yourself talking out your ideas

Prewriting can happen at any stage in the writing process.

FREE WRITING

Free writing is a specific type of prewriting that involves writing continuously without editing.

- Set a timer for 5 minutes and write nonstop
- Answer the journalist's questions (who, what, why, when, where, and how)
- When the timer goes off, read over and pick out useful ideas



GETTING STARTED

- Start off by setting small, manageable goals
- Create a time management plan
- Start in the middle, not the intro
- Take brain breaks
- Generate ideas using the above techniques
- Reward yourself for achieving writing goals
- Go back to prewriting/free writing if stuck
- Seek help from a writing mentor at CxC

REMEMBER!

Not every draft will be your best, especially not the first! Revisit these tips any time you feel stuck.

MEET WITH A MENTOR!

CxC's team of student mentors are here to support you at any stage of the writing process. Reach out to schedule a session today at cxc.lsu.edu/appointment