

Discovering Ideas Through Writing

Whether you are in the classroom beginning an assignment, sitting at work staring at a request from your supervisor, or anticipating standing on the street corner giving a speech at a rally, you need a way to figure out what you want to say and how you want to say it. As we discussed in [Chapter 4](#), one of the best ways to do this is through freewriting. Essentially, when you freewrite, you write for a particular amount of time without stopping, not worrying about whether your ideas make sense. You don't stop to correct spelling, ponder whether you have chosen the best word, or reread what you've written. Instead, you let your thoughts spill onto the page, trusting that through the process you will begin to get some interesting ideas flowing. It is best to freewrite using pen and paper rather than a computer, since there is less chance you will want to go back and correct or reread.

WRITE

Write for ten minutes with a pen and paper. Start with one of the following prompts: "Why I Like to Write" or "Why I Don't Like to Write." Don't let your pen stop. If you get tired of writing, just become Bart Simpson at the board and keep writing the prompt over and over. Eventually, you will start writing something else. Trust the process. After you finish, read over what you wrote and underline or circle anything you hadn't considered when you first heard the prompt.