

Lesson 1: The Writing Process

Prewriting: Finding Ideas for Writing

Writing actually begins when you think up ideas, not when you pick up the pen or your pencil. Your experiences, observations, feelings, and opinions are a rich source of topics and ideas that you can use for writing. Take a look at the following techniques, they may be able to assist you in finding and exploring ideas.

Keeping a Writer's Journal

Use a writer's journal to record your experiences, observations, feelings, opinions, ideas, and questions. Your journal can be a notebook, a blank book, or a special folder. Write something in it daily. Be sure to include dates for your entries.

*suggestion – a journal is not a diary so be careful not to write things that you would mind other people viewing inshaAllah.

Tips for Journal writing:

- ◆ write down dreams, daydreams, parts of stories you remember
- ◆ Collect poems, articles, quotations and sayings
- ◆ when you include something tell why you liked it, or what it reminds you of
- ◆ Don't worry about grammar, spelling, or neatness. Just keep track of your ideas

Freewriting

When you freewrite, it means that you are writing from whatever comes to mind. You don't worry about what it is that you are saying or how you are saying it. Freewriting can help you to relax about writing. And doing this often can give you some ideas for later use in your writing process.

Tips for Freewriting:

- ◆ use a timer, and write for three to five minutes.
- ◆ Begin with a word, or topic that is of importance to you.
- ◆ Write whatever the word or topic makes you think of.
- ◆ Don't worry about grammar, spelling, or punctuation
- ◆ Just write!
- ◆ If you get stuck, copy the same word or phrase until you think of something else to write.

Exercise 1: Using the techniques

Write a paragraph about something that you have learned through experience. It might be a fact, a skill, or even a new way of thinking. To find and develop ideas for your paragraph write a page for your writer's journal. Use a combination of techniques by adding a Freewriting in your journal on the same subject for about three to five minutes.

2 points/rewards