Writing

Getting over Writer’s Block - Figure out what works for you

- A schedule: 3:00 – 4:00 every day
- A quota: 3 pages per day
- A deadline: Chapter 1 of history paper done by next Friday
- Free style: Whatever, whenever, however

Tips to Become a Better/Faster Writer

- **Have more than one project going on** - different reports require different thinking levels. If one is not working for you today, try another.
- **Try a binge writing session.** Hide in a friend’s apartment who is out of town for the weekend and just write – no phone, no TV.
- **Read.** Read what you’ve written before and then just keep going. Read what someone else has written to get inspired. Read something similar (or different) to what you are trying to write.
- **Have a good writing space** that has all the tools, good lighting, a good chair. Train yourself to write when you go there.
- **Go to the Writing Center in the Library.** They have people there who can help you in many ways. It’s a great resource.
- **Write in outline form,** not in prose. Get the skeleton of what you want to write then go back and fill in bullets and points. Turn that into paragraphs.
- **Talk it out.** Get a tape recorder and say what you want to write. Then play it back and type what you said. Edit from there.
- **Go do something completely different** that involves exercise – get that blood pumping.
- **Skip the first sentence.** It’s always the hardest. Give yourself permission to just start writing – you can go back and edit later.
- **One word mini writes.** Pick the key word from the paragraph or section about which you are writing. Set a timer for 60 seconds and write furiously for that time length on that one word. Bing! Use that as a starting point for more serious writing.
- **If your writer’s block is chronic – thoughtfully examine the causes.** Are you unhappy with some aspect of your work? Is there something fundamentally out of whack with what you are trying to write? Perhaps it’s a deeper issue than just writer’s block.
Pick 3 of the above writing tips that sound like something that would help you. Write them down below along with how and when you will incorporate them into your Becoming a More Successful Student Plan.

1. 

2. 

3. 

**Power of Positive Thinking: Writing**

Writing is an important part of becoming a successful student and I need to think about doing it well. I will use all the resources available to me such as the Writing Center and my professors. Thinking about how I write and trying specific ideas to improve my writing will help me become a better, faster writer.