

# 20 TIPS FOR OVERCOMING WRITER'S BLOCK

- Write quickly (freewriting)
- Don't edit (i.e. don't correct grammar, spelling, sentence structure etc.) as you write
- Write without referring to your research notes (you can plug this info in later)
- Don't worry about words; go for ideas
- If you can't think of the right word, leave a blank or put in a general word ("thing"), or put the word in your first language if other than English
- Capture good ideas that come as you write without worrying about sequence; write them in the margin of your paper or put them in brackets on the computer
- Follow your plan but don't be its slave!
- Write the easiest part first
- Write your introductory paragraph last along with the conclusion
- If writing on paper, leave lots of space to add and change
- Imagine that you are writing for a friendly reader (NOT the teacher!) who needs to know what you know about your topic
- Write as you talk with everyday words and short sentences (you can make changes later)
- Rehearse what you will write by talking about your ideas before you start
- Stop writing in the middle of a sentence before taking a break to make it easier to get started again
- Write whole sections of your paper at a time so that ideas flow
- Just relax! Drafts don't count!
- Brainstorm ideas that you could write about next
- Make a web or cluster of possible ideas
- Generate some questions that a reader might have at this point in your paper and then write to answer them
- Talk about your ideas with someone: tell them about your topic and why it's interesting and important; then ask them what they would want to know next

**Remember: first WRITE, then make it RIGHT**