

Camosun College English

What is Freewriting and Why Do It?

Freewriting in our English classes means writing non-stop without a plan for a set period of time, 10 or 15 minutes. The only rule is to keep your pen or your fingers on the keyboard moving from beginning to end. Start with whatever is on your mind and follow your thoughts wherever they lead. Whatever you write is yours alone. There's no need to show it to anyone else, including your teacher, unless you want to.

When you finish each day, please read what you've written and underline one or two sentences that interest you the most. They could give you ideas for future writing assignments. Also, please do all your freewriting in one notebook. Over time reading over your freewriting may help you learn what most interests you.

I ask that you do freewriting for 10 or 15 minutes at least twice a week. There is no grade for what you write, but you will get credit for writing at least twice per week and extra credit if you freewrite more often than that.

Why is freewriting important?

Writing, especially for school, can be an anxiety-ridden experience for a lot of people. All the corrections on so many papers by so many teachers can lead to a fear of making mistakes. Also, students often try to figure out what they think the teacher wants them to write instead of on what they want to say. Yet, the best writing happens when a person finds the words to their true thoughts on paper. With free writing, the teacher won't even see what you write, so there's nothing to fear. It's a chance to become better acquainted with your unique mind.