

**JUST DO IT: WRITE!**

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- “We believe that writing is a process; it **happens in stages**, in different drafts. It may be ended (on the day a paper is due), but it is never really finished. Writing is revision—re-seeing—and all writers, no matter how accomplished, can **benefit from discussing their work.**”

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TIPS: SPEAKING TIPS: WRITING

← Remembering a Bad Old Semester      Some Inspirations →

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**Just Do It: Write!**

WORKSHOP AGENDA

- Outline of the writing process
  - Brainstorm
  - Freewrite
  - Draft
  - Revise, revise, revise
- Persuasive language
  - Communication
  - Expression
  - Reflection
  - Criticism
- Tips to make writing easier

TYPES OF WRITING

- Academic essays
- Creative nonfiction
  - Personal essays/memoir
  - Descriptive journalism
- Fiction
  - Short story
  - Novel
- Poetry
- Plays and screenplays

HELP! I CAN'T THINK OF AN IDEA!

- Don't panic: you have done this before and you can do it again
- Explore all angles
- Discuss with peers or with yourself

<http://shirtoid.com/20983/brainstorm/>

### FREWRITE: A SANE CONVERSATION WITH YOURSELF

- Take that finger off the delete button!
- Set a timer
- Look away: dim your monitor screen or close your eyes



<http://peachx.com/tag/school/>

### EXERCISE!

- Try it: Who was the most interesting US President of the 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> century?
  - Discuss with the person next to you
  - Ask a lot of questions
- Put your pencil to the paper and don't pick it up, even if you just keep writing "không biết, không biết, không biết..."

### THE FIVE W'S (AND ONE H)

- Who: John F Kennedy
- What: 35<sup>th</sup> President of the United States
- When: 1961-1963
- Where: USA
- Why: Because of his actions regarding the American War
- How: Limited military involvement

### NEXT STEP AFTER FREWRITE

## DRAFT



<http://explov.com/Hitchhikers>

### COMMUNICATION

- Writing is a dialog
- Write for your audience
  - Context is key
  - Assume ignorance: define your terms and explain all concepts
- Maintain your voice
  - Write what you believe, not what you think your reader wants to read
  - Be passionate

### EXPRESSION

- Word choice
  - [www.thesaurus.com](http://www.thesaurus.com)
- Write in English instead of translating from Vietnamese
- Don't use words you cannot define



<http://www.mrisakson.com/10th-grade-english/in-class-writing-prompts/>

HOW CAN WE FIX THIS?

- o I like Jimmy Carter because he was a nice person. I think being nice is important. I like nice people. Nice people make good leaders. I know a lot of nice people and I would listen to them if they became President.



HOW CAN WE FIX THIS?

- o Tôi thích Jimmy Carter vì ông là một người tốt đẹp. Tôi nghĩ tốt đẹp là quan trọng. Tôi thích những người đẹp. Các người đẹp làm cho các nhà lãnh đạo tốt. Tôi biết rất nhiều người tốt đẹp và tôi sẽ lắng nghe họ nếu họ trở thành Tổng thống.
- o I like Jimmy Carter because he was a good person. I think well is important. I like beautiful people. The beautiful people make good leaders. I know a lot of nice people and I will listen to them if they became president.



HOW CAN WE FIX THIS?

- o I emulate Jimmy Carter due to his flawless personality. The virtue of kindness holds exquisite value. Jubilation overtakes me when I interact with individuals of this nature. I am cognizant of a plethora of such citizens and I shall pledge my allegiance in the aftermath of their potential inauguration as renowned and exceptional President.



REFLECTION

- o How many of you think about your favorite American president on a daily basis? How many of you now know what you value in a leader because of the American Center's essay prompt?



<http://chaosandoldnight.wordpress.com/2008/09/06/god-the-philosopher/>



CRITICISM

- o Agree or disagree—don't do both!
- o Argue with a reason in mind
- o Assert yourself
  - Defend your opinion
  - Have confidence in your argument
  - Own up to your authority



SHARING IDEAS

- o You are the expert of your topic, so you must educate others!
- o Leads to:
  - a greater understanding of the human condition
  - innovation



<http://blog.dreamidea.co.uk/2011/09/dream-idea-resolves-online-business-networking-issues/>



## POWER VERBS

- Avoid:
  - To be
  - To have
  - To say
  - To go
- Be as specific as possible
  - A more focused verb choice describes your subject better

## HOW CAN WE FIX THIS?

- Thomas Jefferson is a leader.
- Abraham Lincoln has good communication skills.
- Herbert Hoover said that he would get rid of poverty and feed the American people.
- Barack Obama went to Columbia University.

## A FEW POWER VERB EXAMPLES

- |                               |                                   |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Acquire (instead of get)      | Illustrate (instead of show)      |
| Cease (instead of stop)       | Signify (instead of mean that)    |
| Reveal (instead of tell)      | Persevere (instead of continue)   |
| Emerge (instead of come out)  | Eliminate (instead of get rid of) |
| Dominate (instead of control) | Illuminate (instead of show)      |
|                               | Bellow (instead of say)           |

## ACTIVE VS. PASSIVE VOICE

- Passive voice lacks a subject and can often lead to weak or confusing sentences
  - Passive: The American people were led.
  - Active: Bill Clinton led the American people.
- Active or passive?
  - This presentation is being given by Aliza.
- Active or passive?
  - Aliza is going to be sad when she leaves Hanoi.
- Active or passive?
  - Going abroad presents challenges for many students.

## LESS IS MORE

- Be concise
  - Long sentences confuse your reader
  - It is easier to make grammatical errors when your sentence has many clauses
- Delete “and”
  - If your sentence has two different ideas, break it into two sentences or use a semi-colon (;)

## REVISE, REVISE, REVISE

- There is no right or wrong way to write
- Writing is a cyclic process
  - Focus on a different aspect of writing with each cycle
    - Language
    - Argument
    - Flow
- Final drafts are not final drafts. They are **abandoned** drafts.