

Writing TIPS

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There is never a time when there isn't something to write about. However, there are plenty of times when we can't remember our great ideas or when we don't notice our surroundings in creative or insightful ways.

Tips for letting the story lead you:

Keep a running list of story ideas.

Jot down story ideas; Never assume that you will remember a good story idea.

Keep a clip file. If you see something you like in another newspaper, magazine or on the web, print it or clip it. Spend time later figuring out how to localize it.

Understand that there are no new ideas. It's unlikely that you will find a topic that has never been written about. Novelty is not necessarily important. It's more important to localize and focus the topic. Make sure it applies to your reader.

Look for the less obvious. Remember that the loser can make a better story than the winner.

Define your thinking place. Understand where you get your best ideas, and be willing to go there during a "drought."

Know the creative process:

Information gathering – finding out everything you can.

Incubation – thinking about it.

Frustration/starting over – getting sick of thinking about it and frustrated with not getting the right idea.

Illumination – the light bulb.

Evaluation – will it actually work?

ACTIVITY: Creative writing exercises, presentation/speaking

HOMEWORK:

- 1) Write at least 100 words (1.5 space) that describe your place where you are a writer (answer some/all of 5 Ws + How?).
- 2) Produce new POSTS to your blog that describe your place of writing. Include several images. Write about the images too.
- 3) Buy or obtain at least 3 print local and international newspapers, magazines, or other periodical materials
- 4) Identify, read, and cut out at least 8 different stories of interest to you (as a journalist/researcher), and organize these into CLIP FILE
- 5) Scan the sources/articles in your CLIP FILE, upload to your WP account

- 6) In a new POST identify and write about the stories you find in the gathered sources.

DELIVERABLE(s):

- 1) Short Essay, print
- 2) more new POSTS
- 3) Scan your CLIP FILE with news stories (cut out/mount).
- 4) New POSTS with Scans, images with new text about news stories

