Overcoming Writer's Block

Rebecca Pope-Ruark, PhD | rpoperuark3@gatech.edu
Office of Faculty Professional Development



What does writer's block look like and feel like for you?

Share in the chat!



Where Do You Most Often Get Stuck?



Pre-writing: research, reading, analysis, outlining, preparing to write



Drafting: fleshing out the content in sentences, paragraphs, sections



Post-writing: revising, getting feedback, copy editing, proofreading



Tips for Getting Started

- Commit to a regular writing schedule, and keep to it
 - Know when you write best
 - Know what environmental conditions you need to be successful
- Set small, reasonable goals for each writing session
- Set a timer
- Write with a friend or accountability buddy
- Free write about your goals and what you want to say



Tips for Getting Unstuck

- Leap frog to another section
- Free write without stopping for 5 minutes
- Read it out loud word-for-word
- Visualize the argument somehow outline, tree diagram, etc.
- Talk to yourself or a friend about what you are trying to say
- Get active, and let your subconscious work it out
- Change locations or writing tools



Tips for Finishing

- Make a detailed list of tasks you need to accomplish to finish the piece
- Set a deadline, and put your "butt in seat"
- Share your deadline with a friend or accountability buddy or coach
- Abandon perfectionism good enough is good enough
- Get feedback from a trusted source
- Plan a reward for finishing or submitting

