



# Starting to write

## 1. classic freewriting

Freewriting is a spontaneous and associative form of writing, writing freely in the best sense of the word. You take the time to put your thoughts on paper that are already in your head, without paying attention to grammatical or stylistic formulations. The writing process should be organised without any external constraints, i.e. it should be completely free. Free writing can be completely customised: You determine the place, time and writing materials yourself: you write where and how it suits you.

### What are the benefits of this writing technique?

There are two basic approaches to using and utilising freewriting:

- a) to (continue) **working on a specific text**,
- b) as **regular writing training**.

Regardless of whether you practise freewriting regularly or use it specifically for a particular project, this writing technique can help you to

- to start by producing texts, recording thoughts (which you may need later),
- to collect ideas, fully develop topics and formulate any hidden thoughts,
- to develop a relaxed, informal attitude towards your own writing,
- to reduce writer's block,
- to work on and refine your writing style,
- to document your personal writing development (e.g. in a kind of writing diary) and thus be able to reflect on your own writing practice

## 2. focussed freewriting

Works in a similar way to classic freewriting, but when writing you concentrate on certain aspects that you want to work on. You narrow down the topic, spin out thoughts or try to develop specific questions. Focussed freewriting can be used in a targeted manner and easily integrated into the ongoing writing project.





### **3. multi-version writing**

You write several versions of the same text or individual sections of it one after the other. This makes it much easier to find the right approach, what you have written will always take on a different form and you will have a larger and more varied amount of text to choose from. On this basis, you can then write a new version that combines all the previous versions or by revising the “best” first version once again.

Although multi-version writing is not freewriting in the true sense of the word, it helps you to free yourself from the idea of a perfect text and at the same time try out different individual approaches to the text.

### **4. catalogue of questions**

The catalogue of questions can be used to develop a whole series of concrete questions in associative form that can accompany the further writing process. It is less important to find a suitable answer straight away than to raise fundamental, i.e. difficult or unpleasant, questions.

This also allows you to actively scrutinise your own writing process and bring up topics or problems that you may be struggling with more quickly.

### **5. common theme**

The common theme is a good way to scrutinise the basic structure of a text. To do this, quickly write down three sentences for each bullet point or section of the text. The central statement and the core idea should be recorded in these sentences; where information may still be missing, assumptions are sufficient. Then read the text (aloud): Where breaks or gaps become audible, there may still be a need for revision.

### **6. morning pages**

In this regular writing exercise, you start your writing day or writing session with a simple freewriting exercise. Similar to a diary entry, you follow spontaneous impulses and let your thoughts run free. In this way, you can clear your head in just a few (morning) pages so that you can then concentrate fully on the task at hand.





## 7. clustering

Similar to focussed freewriting, you first write down all the individual aspects that come to mind spontaneously and associatively for a topic or term. In doing so, you circle the central terms accordingly and create logical connecting lines (also graphically). In contrast to a mind map, a cluster has a less hierarchical structure. In a short time, an association network (cluster) is created, which shows initial structuring possibilities through the different strands and branches.