

11.027 City to City

Session 3 In-Class Writing Exercises

“Getting Words on Paper”

Exercise 1: Free Writing (3 minutes)

Rules: Put your pen on the paper. Don't take it off. Keep writing about your topic. Get as much information on the topic out on the paper as you can. Write down the questions you are asking and ideas you have. If you don't know what to write, write that.

Instructor's Post-Exercise Questions:

- How do you usually put words onto paper?
- What is the worst writing experience you have had? Why?

Exercise 2: Free Writing (5 minutes)

Draw a line on the paper you were writing on. Similar to last time, do some brainstorming. Write anywhere on the paper, it doesn't need to be linear. People who are very visual have a hard time writing in a highly linear way.

Rules: Draw a small circle in the middle of the page. Write your topic in the middle of the circle. Take 5 minutes. Ideas should be put anywhere around that main topic.

Instructor's Post-Exercise Questions:

- How was that?
- Was it better or worse? Why?

Part of learning to write is about learning about you. It is important to know how you work and to use strategies to build on that. The writing may be faster and less frustrating when you know yourself.

Exercise 3: Topic Questions (4 minutes)

Part 1

Write the questions covered in lecture: Who, what, when, where, why, how. Turn them into full questions related to your topic. (2 min.)

Part 2

Switch papers with a partner. Mark (with a circle or asterisk) the questions that your partner wrote down that you find most interesting. (2 min.)