

Warm-up exercises for writing

1. Tactility and words: take a piece of clay and a sheet of A3 paper; lie down on the floor and cover your chest with the paper—shape the clay for 18' with your eyes closed, imagining what you are shaping, and shaping it according to the image you have in your body/mind. After 18' stop: open your eyes, no further changes are allowed. Put the shape on the paper and ask your class-mates to write a keyword expressing what they see. Use *all* the words you have received to make a text. Read it for the class. *Genre*: free (anything from poem to prose).
2. Using scissors: Now take a xerox copy of something that you have read and want to share. Cut out pieces from the text that strike you as particularly relevant. Arrange them in an order that makes sense. Make up the missing parts between the text-cuts, using your own words.
3. An unexpected turn. Write a short concentrate of what interests you, with your own words only. When you have finished, find a way of returning to where you started but with an unexpected twist, so that the ending will indicate a new direction for your search.
4. As dry as powder: try to write about something that involves/engages you as drily as possible. When you have finished, make the text even more dry. Then add some image/s that turn/s the text into poetry. See *where* the compound is moving: to where might it bring you?
5. Association: write a text driven by poetic association mainly, make it work as an intuitive expressive whole. Then add an image that makes the text come out as rational prose. Learning: simultaneous association of an idea/object ordinarily not regarded as related.
6. Cadavre exquis (picking up movements): write a sequence of short texts on small sheets (in a sequence that makes sense), add a con-sequence of images on the sheets' back side. Make sure that the images you add express the text on the back. Arrange the sheets according to a *visual* logic. Then turn them, so that the text appears in this order face up.