

## Writing Process Task 2

### Part I

Writer's block often manifested itself in my writing process, often slowing down the completion of my assignments. I notice that this happens most when I am in noisy or chaotic environments, like crowded cafes or shared study spaces. To focus, I typically need to go to my family's office area in our house or my bedroom. These quiet spaces help me think clearly. When I get stuck, I try to organize my ideas by writing rough sentences on my iPad or jotting down bullet points. These methods help me to regain my momentum and write without problems.

### Part II

In "Rigid Rules, Inflexible Plans, and the Stifling of Language," Mike Rose argues that strict adherence to rules and rigid plans can inhibit creativity in writing. (Rose) He explains that focusing too much on specific things like grammar, structure, or adhering to an outline can prevent students and writers from exploring ideas organically. Rose emphasizes that writing is a process of discovery, and making mistakes is imperative to the writing process. These mistakes should be welcomed, as they help catalyze improvement. By punishing writing mistakes, students may be more hesitant to take risks and develop their own voice. This perspective has helped me to see that writer's block can sometimes come from trying too hard to follow rigid "rules," instead of allowing one's own creativity to flourish and show itself in one's writing. By not being afraid of making mistakes, I can see how much easier it is to allow oneself to push the limits of writing. It is because of mistakes that many great works and many great writers have risen. By being more flexible with myself, I will be better able to generate richer ideas.

### Part III

Creating a first draft and then a final draft has often been very challenging for me. I like to try to make every sentence perfect immediately, so for me, it feels unnatural to create

writing that doesn't feel like my best work right away. I feel that even in the drafting process, I focus heavily on grammar, phrasing, and whether my ideas sound adequate for the assignment. This makes me feel stuck before I even begin writing. Rose's reading helped me realize that strict rules and expectations can contribute to the struggle of writer's block; he explains that applying rigid rules to your writing limits creativity. (Rose) After understanding that writing does not need to be perfect on the first try, the draft becomes a space for exploration. Since reading Rose, I have adjusted my drafting process. I now try freewriting my ideas or jotting notes in bullet points to get my ideas flowing without worrying about grammar or structure. Once I have something on paper, I then go back and revise. I go through and decide what I should keep and what I should remove, then polish up the ideas that are left, paying attention to grammar and structural rules. The separation of idea generation and editing has reduced the pressure I feel to be perfect on the first try, thus eliminating my writer's block. In the future, I plan to embrace this process all the time to allow myself grace to write without perfection in the beginning stages. Recognizing that revision is where refinement happens helps me to be more patient and creative, overall making the process more productive and less stressful.

Rose, Mike. "Rigid Rules, Inflexible Plans, and the Stifling of Language: A Cognitivist Analysis of Writer's Block." *College Composition and Communication*, vol. 31, no. 4, Dec. 1980, p. 389, <https://doi.org/10.2307/356589>.