

Kenyon College Natural Science Division
Summer Communication Groups
Week 3 – Freewriting

Objective: Students transition from oral to written communication

Main activity: Students perform, share and edit freewrites

Toolkit:

- Freewrite
 - General freewriting guidelines:
 - Write for 5-15 minutes without stopping
 - Do not reread while you are writing
 - Do not correct or cross out mistakes
 - If your train of thought runs out in one direction, start over with something else
 - Don't be such as scientist – go for gut-level thinking
 - The objective is to uncover ideas, not to produce a polished product
 - First prompt: “What are you excited, nervous, surprised, or scared about this summer?”
 - 5 minutes
 - Each participant reports
 - Talk about freewriting. What is its value?
 - Get started
 - Brainstorm ideas
 - Learn to write more conversationally
 - Second prompt
 - 10 minutes: “Why should anyone care about your summer work?”
 - Find one idea in your freewrite worth follow-up
 - Share with the group
- Sharing and extensions
 - If you could only share one sentence from your freewrite, which would it be?
 - Did anything surprising, compelling, revealing or provocative arise from your freewrite?
 - Pick the most interesting idea from your first freewrite and do another short freewrite with it as the prompt
 - Additional prompts
 - Any of the roleplaying scenarios from week 1 can be used to motivate a freewrite
 - Write about a humorous, surprising, and/or exciting incident that occurred during your research.
 - What part of your work speaks to the “gut” (rather than the mind)?
 - Use a “real-world” analogy to describe some aspect of your work.

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