

The Writing Process

Gapers Block Online Publication

This article was supposed to be about the Chicago Cubs. This article was begun on Saturday, May 31, after witnessing 16 innings of the best damn ball game ever. This article was to be a funny and touching voyage from my childhood passion for the Cubs to my newfound adult romance with them. That article was not written. This one takes its place instead.

After trying to find an angle for two days, I was quite unsuccessful much to my chagrin. With my childhood baseball scrapbook in front of me, and my Cubs knit cap on my head, I attempted to begin again. After two forced and painfully cheesy paragraphs, I knew I was stuck. Sure the title "Cub Reporter" was clever enough with its pun and all, but the rest of it just plain sucked. (And really, the title wasn't that great either.)

Everyone has their own way of doing things; this holds particularly true with the writing process. Instead of following the advice of others, I turned to my own trusty method. Sure it varies slightly from work to work but I have found the technique, and all its variations, to be quite helpful. Feel free to use it as well.

1. Type out all of your notes (because you take your work seriously, you really should have notes).
2. Neatly print out all your notes on an old Mead College Ruled 1 Subject Notebook that you found while looking for something else.
3. Chat with friends online, informing them you are supposed to be writing but are just "taking a break" at the moment.
4. Reread your handwritten notes and compare them to your printed copy to see if you missed anything.
5. Eat a granola bar remembering that you read somewhere granola helps with brain function. Then recall that it was menopause, and not brain function, that granola aids.
6. Eat some olives. Green ones with red pimentos.
7. Eat a second granola bar, just in case.
8. Drink lots of water, because all of the granola and olives have made you quite thirsty.
9. Stop to chuckle when you recall that morning you and your friend Michael witnessed a man walking down the street wearing nothing but white gym shoes and gray briefs — which were hanging halfway down his butt crack.
10. Thinking of butt crack, reminds you that your boss is cracking the whip. This becomes your mantra in hopes that it will inspire you to finish way before your Wednesday deadline.
11. Take your printed notes, your Mead College Ruled 1 Subject Notebook, turn off iTunes, close the laptop and write in bed with a black Bic ball-point pen, just like you used to.
12. You'd pray but then you remember that you don't.

So there you have it. Just remember that everyone goes about the writing process in their own way — some with successful results, and others...well, you know. And although my scientifically backed method wasn't quite up to par this time around, just wait till next time! And in case you were interested, here is a summary of the would-be

baseball article: after striking out five times, Sosa hits a one-out single at the bottom of the 16th, bringing Alex Gonzalez home to score and ending the game at 0-1; never let it be said that I am one of those women who watches the game just for the men (although I have noticed the Cubs sporting some droopy drawers as of late -- taking away from butt watch-age); Astros center fielder Craig Biggio is rather smallio compared to the other players; and why have one 7th inning stretch when you can have two?

Keep on writing.