Pre session polls

What level of study are you?

- Access
- Level 1
- Level 2
- Level 3
- Postgraduate

What would you consider is your main area of study?

- Arts
- Languages (English & other)
- Social sciences
- Business and law
- Science
- Engineering or technology
- Maths
- Health sciences
- Education
- Sports
- OTHER

What module are you studying or will you be studying?



Initial polls

What is your favourite type of informal writing?

What would you consider is your main experience of informal writing?

- Beginner (something I would like to do but have never got round to)
- Feeling my way (have done a bit)
- Reasonably confident (have done quite a bit)
- Very confident (have done a lot)
- Expert (have been published (in whatever format)

What is your main reason for coming along this evening?

Session purpose

• Is for:

- Give some guidance about writing for pleasure.
- Allow you to ask questions about writing for pleasure and share experiences
- Provide a space to interact with other students

Is not for:

Providing any module specific advice



A note about polls

- We use polls as a way of interacting. You can scroll around to see all text if they don't show on your screen.
- Polls are anonymous to other users but help us to gauge opinion.
- You can also use the chat pod to add comments / ask questions throughout.
- If you find it distracting looking at the chat pod then feel free to ignore it and focus on the main slide and polling pods.



Informal writing

Blogging, forums and more



Introductory video

Here's one we prepared earlier.



Breakout practice

- To get used to the breakout room format have a brief (2 minute) discussion on the video that you have just watched and make a couple of notes that you can then bring back to the main plenary.
- To speak remember the microphone activation (which will be shown in the room too)
- You can copy any of the notes you make in the chat there into a document or your clipboard so you can share them in the main room



Plenary

Sharing from breakout practice 1



Informal writing

Paul-François Tremlett, Senior Lecturer, Religious Studies, The Open University



How to write

- Writing is about style and genre
- What is your audience?
- What do they expect?
- Are there conventions that your writing needs to follow?



Informal writing

What it is and how you can do it

What is informal writing?

Polls:

- Please suggest some characteristics of informal writing
- What might be some of the key differences between formal and informal writing?

What is informal writing?

- Might include slang/colloquialisms/everyday language
- May take a personal or subjective tone
- Might use abbreviations (OU instead of Open University)
- Or contractions (couldn't instead of could not)
- Think conventions

Examples of informal writing?

Poll

Suggest some examples of informal writing

Examples of informal writing?

- Letters to friends or family
- Comments or reviews on a digital platform
- Prose or poetry
- Blogging



Is informal writing a study skill?





Breakout room activity

- You will have 10 minutes to discuss how informal writing can be useful in helping build study skills.
- There will be some prompt questions for you to think about to help you scaffold your discussions thinking about writing as studentship and writing as craft.
- Remember to check the number of the room you are in (shows at top of chat pod) in case of connection issues and for bringing back information.



Breakout activity 1

Informal writing and study skills

Breakout Plenary

What do you want to share from your discussions?



Study skills



- A good student communicates well in writing
- Writing is a skill that takes practice
- Writing takes many forms including essays, reviews, letters, poetry, short stories, forum posts, comments on digital platforms, blogs
- Experimenting with different forms of writing will make you a better writer

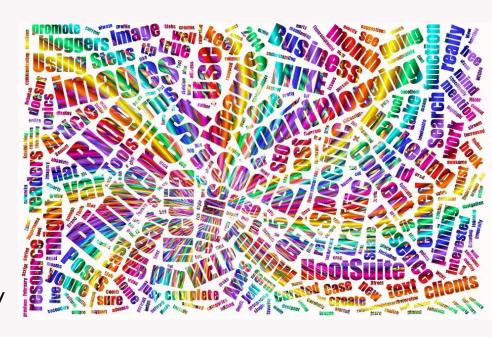


Blogging

What and why

What is a blog?

- A blog is a website that curates information on a specific topic
- A blog might have single or multiple authors
- Blogs are short, focused pieces of writing (500 words per post, approx) and may include images, music and links
- A blog contains frequently updated entries on a topic, usually posted in a column with the newest entry on top



Why blog?

- Create your own blog (as easy as setting up an e-mail address wordpress.com)
- Contribute to someone else's blog
- Disseminate your ideas
- Reach new publics
- Practice your writing







Online forums

Commenting on posts



Polling

- Reasons for creating online forum posts
- Reasons for commenting on online forum posts



Commenting on a forum

- If you have posted images or messages on digital platforms or written a blog, you may have got comments from friends and strangers on your post
- Look for messages that make you think or give you ideas and reply
- Ask a question if there's something you don't fully understand
- Reply to someone else's request for information, if you can
- If your forum is quiet, don't worry start a new discussion, and always keep things fresh!

Breakout room activity

- You will have 10 minutes to discuss how thinking about commenting on forum posts can be beneficial to learning, and how it can impact you and others.
- There will be some prompt questions for you to think about to help you scaffold your discussions thinking about the reasons why you comment and how to do this in a constructive way
- Remember to check the number of the room you are in (shows at top of chat pod) in case of connection issues and for bringing back information



Breakout Plenary

What do you want to share from your discussions?



Final Plenary

What have you learnt?



Final polls

What do you feel is the main thing you will take away from this evening?

What are you going to do as a result of this evening's session?

Which of the other writing retreat sessions are you intending to come to?

- Writing for visual purposes 11th July
- Report writing 18th July
- Editing part 1 25th July
- Editing part 2 1st August



Thank you for coming!

Do please join us for the other sessions within our online writing retreat:

Writing for visual purposes – 11th July

Report writing – 18th July

Editing part 1 – 25th July

Editing part 2 – 1st August

Past student hub live online sessions <u>here</u>

Visit us at http://studenthublive.open.ac.uk/

Send us feedback at studenthub@open.ac.uk

View past (live) recordings on www.youtube.com/thestudenthublive