

# 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

# Bloggging

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 – 11<sup>th</sup> July
- Report writing – 18<sup>th</sup> July
- Editing part 1 – 25<sup>th</sup> July
- Editing part 2 – 1<sup>st</sup> August

# Thank you for coming!

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

Writing for visual purposes – 11<sup>th</sup> July

Report writing – 18<sup>th</sup> July

Editing part 1 – 25<sup>th</sup> July

Editing part 2 – 1<sup>st</sup> August

Past student hub live online sessions [here](#)

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View past (live) recordings on [www.youtube.com/thestudenthublive](http://www.youtube.com/thestudenthublive)