

Dear Everybody,

Welcome to this writing workshop!

My hope is that our work together this evening will come as a sort of oasis for you at the end of a day which has probably been filled with a million conversations and interactions. On a TT course you spend a lot of time in the area of your inter-personal intelligence, in extroverted mode, turned outward to others. For some people the demand to be in incessant communication can be wearying.

As I write this letter to you I am alone in my office, I am not in your physical presence and yet I am aware of the time when you will be reading this and that you will react to what I write in one way or another. It is odd, I am both alone in my office and with you in the workshop room, though of course I don't know who exactly will be there.

I wonder how you see yourself as a writer, both in your Mother Tongue and in English. Do you enjoy the business of writing and, for you, is it mainly a outward turned activity or is it more self-directed? (Some people here probably either write daily diaries or may have done so in the past)

I wonder how many different text types you have written, eg:

notes left on the kitchen table
phone messages
worksheets for class
love poems
essays
letters that were never sent
stories
shopping lists
emails to friends
business emails
articles
school reports etc

There are many more text types, beyond the above list.

What sort feelings do you bring to the writing process? Do you sometimes get into a feeling of "flow", a feeling of ease and spontaneity? Do you sometimes feel blocked?

What do you do to "unblock" yourself?

All these questions are relevant to starting a writing class with students, as you need to know who in the group feels negative about writing and who, on the contrary, likes this type of work.

CAN I NOW ASK YOU TO DO THE FOLLOWING THINGS:

1. Please write a one page letter, addressed to me, about how you see yourself as a writer. When you have finished writing this piece, please come over and give it to me.
2. Please write your name in big, strong letters on a folded piece of paper and place the name in front of you where as many people as possible can see it.
3. Can I now ask you to write a short letter to another person in the group. The content of the letter is entirely up to you. Once you have written the letter, get up and go over and give the letter to the person it is intended for. Now write a second letter to some one else in the group and deliver it. If you receive a letter, please answer it. This "corresponding with each other" phase will last 15-20 minutes.

Warmly yours,

Mario

