

Debunking the Myths about Writing

Myth 1: To write, you must have a neutral talent.

Good writing doesn't come neutrally, though most people obviously think it does. (William Zinsser, p.12)

Myth 2: To write, you must be inspired.

Myth 3: Before you start, you must know what you want to say.

Myth4: When you write, your words send sentences should always come out correctly.

Myth 5: To be a good writer, you have to always like to write.

Myth 6: To be a good writer, you have to devote lots of time to writing.

Myth 7: To be a good writer, you always must have a free flow of ideas.

Myth 8: To be a good writer, you must always be able to write easily and effortlessly.

Myth9: To be a good writer you must not be anxious.

Exercise: Debunk Myths

***Meet with others in your class and discuss how to debunk the myths about writing. Have group members answer the following questions:**

1. Which myths, if any, have you believed to be true?

2. What are the best ways to discredit them?

3. What writing truths can you substitute for them?

4. Reflections: In the space below, record any new insights.