

# Taking the Helm: *Developing a Creative, Focused, and Accountable Writing Practice*



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## Welcome!

**\*\*Do Now:\*\***

As you arrive, please use the chat to tell us **where you are from** and **share one word/phrase** that you would use to describe yourself as a writer.

# Quick Poll – Publishing for your Job



# Goals / Intentions for the Next Hour

- Get your creative juices flowing
- Facilitate a supportive & engaging online writing group
- Motivate you to get stuff done (or started)
- Share resources, tips, and tools for focus and productivity
- Provide ways to connect for potential future collaboration and accountability
- Heads Up! Using breakout rooms







**Creativity**  
[kree-ey-tiv-i-tee]

## Quick poll - Creativity



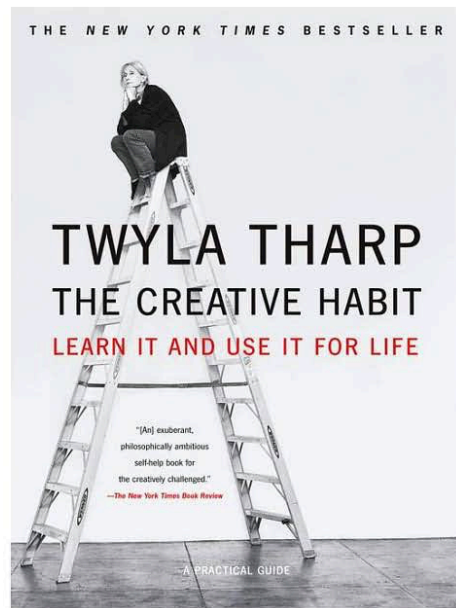
# Activity: *Creative Autobiography*

[Adapted from the book]

On a piece of paper, answer a few of the following (quickly, instinctively, honestly) --

1. What is your creative ambition, and what are the obstacles?
2. Who is your muse, and why?
3. When you work, do you love the process or the result?
4. At what moments do you feel your reach exceeds your grasp?
5. What is your ideal creative activity?

"If creativity is a habit, then the **best creativity is the result of good work habits**. They are the nuts and bolts of dreaming." -- Twyla Tharp, *The Creative Habit*



# ***Creativity To Go***

<http://bit.ly/creativitytogo>



## **Creativity To Go**

### **Books**

*Art & Fear: Observations on the Perils (and Rewards) of Artmaking* by David Bayles and Ted Orland.

*Creative Confidence: Unleashing the Creative Potential Within Us All* by Tom Kelley and David Kelley.

*The Creative Habit: Learn It and Use It For Life* by Twyla Tharp.

*The War of Art: Break Through the Blocks and Win Your Inner Creative Battles* by Steven Pressfield.

*Writing Down the Bones: Freeing the Writer Within* by Natalie Goldberg.

### **Videos**

[How to Build your Creative Confidence](#) | David Kelley

[On Being Creative](#) | Ira Glass

[TED Talks - Creativity](#)



**Focus**  
[foh-kuh s]





## Quick poll – Where are you now?



# **Activity:**

## ***Shut Up and Write!***



Image: Grace Fell <https://www.flickr.com/photos/kuriousoranj/361907520> CC BY-NC-SA

**Times up!**

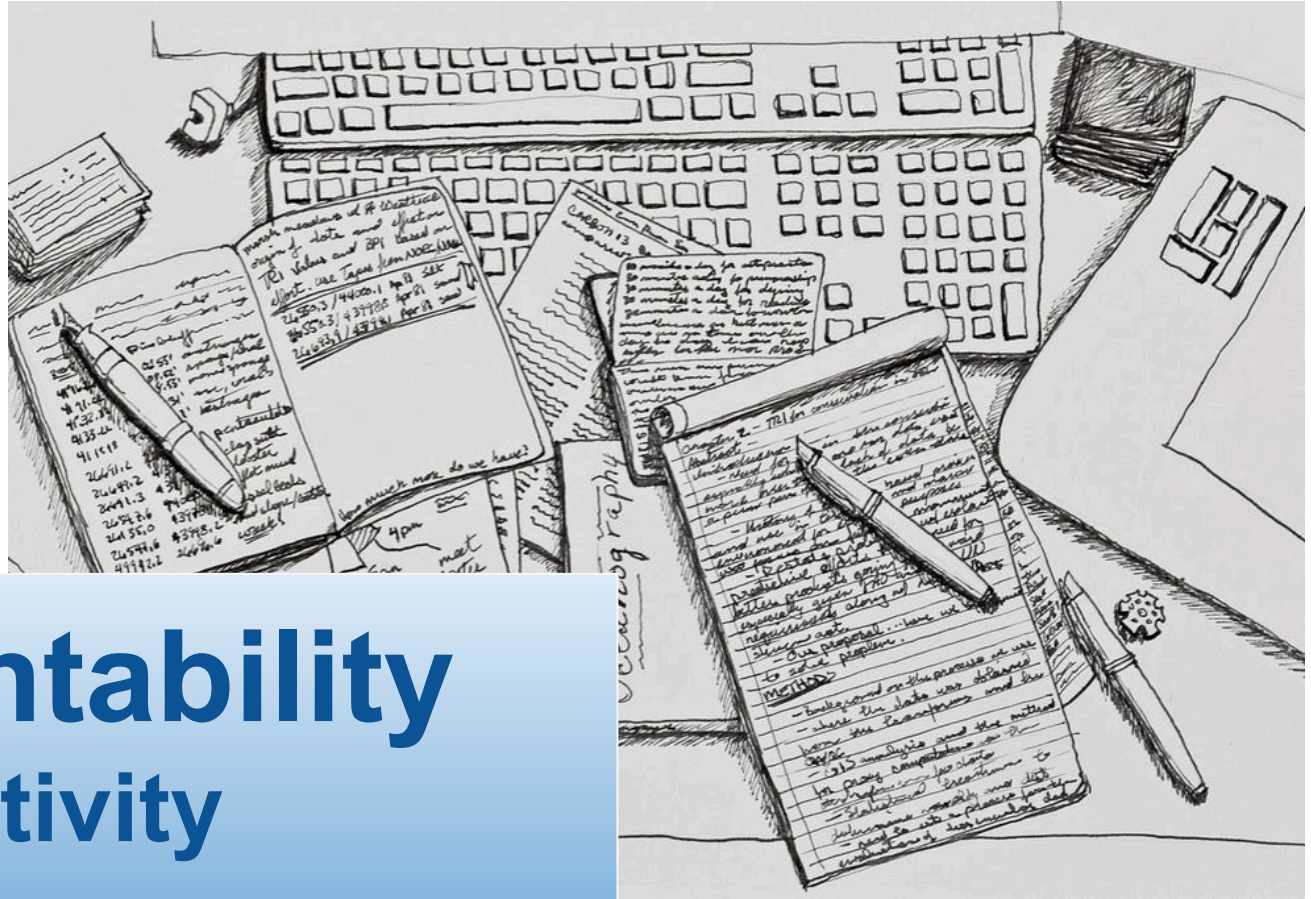




## Quick poll – Focus



# Accountability & Productivity



Example of breakout rooms / chat boxes.

The image shows a virtual breakout room interface with a decorative header featuring a collage of images including a harbor with boats and colorful geometric shapes. Below the header, there are two side-by-side chat boxes. Each chat box has a title bar, a toolbar, a main text area, and a bottom input area.

Instructions - Breakout 2	Instructions - Breakout 2
<p>11 [B] [I] [U] [Color] [List]</p> <p>Use this chat box for Activity #1.</p>	<p>11 [B] [I] [U] [Color] [List]</p> <p>Use this chat box for Activity #2.</p>
<p>Activity #1 Chat - Breakout 1 (Everyone)</p> <p>QUESTION: Use this chat box for Activity #1</p>	<p>Activity #1 Chat - Breakout 2 (Everyone)</p> <p>QUESTION: Use this chat box for Activity #2</p>
<p>[Input Field] [Send]</p> <p>Everyone</p>	<p>[Input Field] [Send]</p> <p>Everyone</p>



# Activity: Time to Share! (Breakout Rooms!)

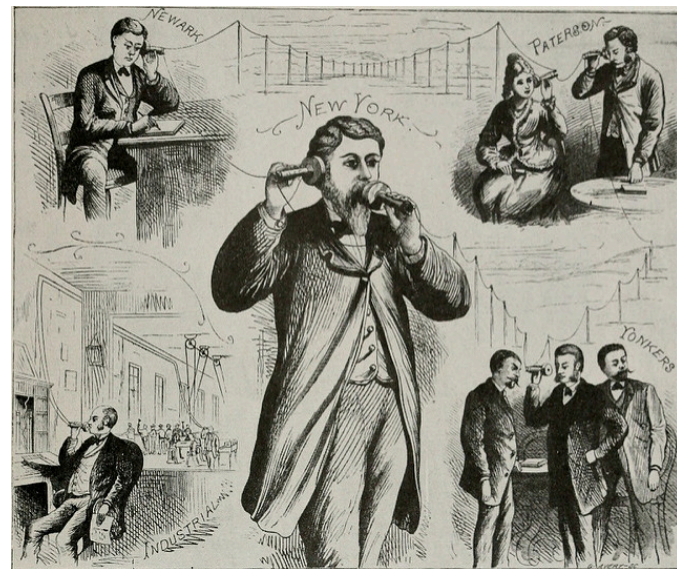
## Activity #1: (*chat window on the left*)

Share and discuss *productivity* and *accountability* strategies for **starting, progressing with, and/or finishing** a writing project.

## Activity #2: (*chat window on right*)

Together, select the most significant (or useful, or intriguing...) **2-3** strategies.

Have one person (from each group) volunteer to share those 2 or 3 strategies once the larger group reconvenes.



# Productivity & Accountability To Go

<http://bit.ly/productivitytogo>

## Productivity & Accountability To Go

### Books

*The Art of Possibility: Transforming Professional and Personal Life* by Rosamund & Benjamin Zander.

*Getting Things Done: The Art of Stress-Free Productivity* by David Allen and James Fallows.

*The Power of Habit: Why We Do What We Do in Life and Business* by Charles Duhigg.

*The Upside of Stress: Why Stress Is Good for You, and How to Get Good at It* by Kelly McGonigal.

### Videos

[How to make stress your friend](#) | Kelly McGonigal

[TED Talks - Productivity](#)

### Apps & Tools

<b>Calm</b> - for mindfulness and meditation to bring more clarity	<b>Coffitivity</b> - recreates the ambient sounds of a cafe to boost your creativity
<b>DropBox</b> - file hosting service	<b>Evernote</b> - note taking, organizing, and archiving
<b>Focus Booster</b> - set a timer, record your sessions and track your productivity	<b>Google Drive</b> - file hosting and sharing
<b>Q10</b> - minimalist writing app designed to be a zen/like space where you can concentrate on your writing	<b>Remember the Milk</b> - to-do list that's everywhere you are: from your phone, to the web, to your Google apps, and more
<b>Rescue Time</b> - personal analytics service, helps you be more productive	<b>Week Plan</b> - personal online weekly planner combined with a schedule organizer, an online

# Networking

[net-wur-king]





# Quick poll – Networking



# Activity: *Make a Connection*

Make a connection for future:

- Research/writing collaborations
- Accountability partners
- Mentors/mentees
- Other?

Use this link to fill out a quick form:

<http://bit.ly/Connect2Write>

Use this link to see responses and connect:

<http://bit.ly/Connect2WriteResponses>

# **Taking the Helm:** ***Developing a Creative, Focused, and Accountable Writing Practice***

***Thank You!***

Slides, Resource Lists,  
and Networking Info:

<http://bit.ly/WritingPracticeMar23>

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