

THE WRITER'S SANDBOX

You'll know it's effective when your daily schedule starts to feel less like a mundane routine and more like a creative ritual.

by Mark McGuinnes

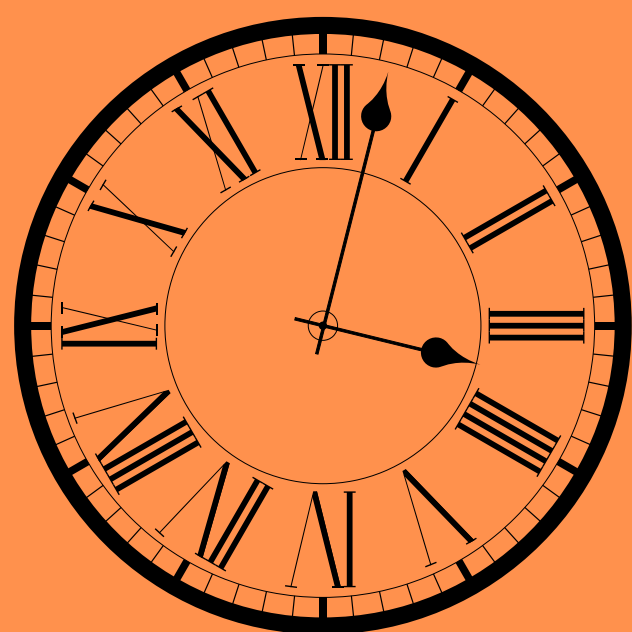


Types of ideas to pursue in your writer's sandbox:

The writer's sandbox is the place where you freely pursue ideas, without the stress of a deadline or the end goal of making your efforts public.

It is a safe place to:

- experiment,
- innovate,
- chase your inner most writing desires, and
- let your imagination fly.



Set a dedicated time to be in your sandbox.

Start at once a week if you are new.

Be yourself.
Write to your heart's desire.



1 MORNING PAGES

Originally the act of writing 3 pages in long hand, first thing in the morning. Other versions include writing a set number of pages everyday, whether typed or handwritten.



- Random thoughts recorded on paper, without a theme.
- A strategy to clear the mind.

2 WRITING PROMPTS

Taking on challenges such as writing a short story or a letter from a prompt or plot line.

- Encourages thinking out of the box
- Involves imagination

3 RECYCLING WORDS PROMPTS

Using words that have already been written, create new meaning out of them such as blackout poetry.

- An artistic way of writing
- Does not involve coming up with words, just linking and making phrases jump out of the page

