Overcoming Writer's Block

Writer's block is a painful situation for writers, no matter how experienced or gifted they may be. There are a variety of ways to combat this condition, like experimenting with your physical surroundings. Don't let your words become a reflection of a negative or a stagnant location; if you feel uninspired or distracted where you are, move! Take a break and take a walk around campus, the neighborhood surrounding it, or a local park. Put your laptop to good use and find the refuge you need away from roommates or other distractions. All of the buildings on campus offer secluded corners with tables and desks perfect for secluded, quiet studying.

Sometimes our thought process is governed by the medium in which we use to preserve our words. Here are a few alternatives for the typical approach of typing on a computer:

- Write out your ideas or even your rough draft on a piece of scrap paper.
- Write a series of notes on note cards or construction paper.
- Use markers, crayons, or colored pencils.
- If you choose to type, change the color of the font.
- Take down ideas on a tape recorder.
- Brainstorm with a friend over coffee.
- Reading aloud as you write is a great way to proofread as you go. You may be able to hear more of your mistakes than when you read silently.
- Don't let your ideas or sentences freeze in your mind or on paper. Make the writing process into a work of art by cutting out the sentences that don't work. Write your ideas on note cards and shuffle them into an order you can follow.