

Strategies for Writing with Depth

- Try to understand what is so important about your topic. Ask:
 - What are the reasons I keep writing about this topic?
 - I've written what's obvious about this; what else can I write?
 - What do I want to show about myself? What does this say about me?
- Return to the topics, ideas, and themes you write about again and again, mining them for new insights, stories, and ideas.
- With seemingly unconnected pieces of writing, ask, "How DO these connect?" to uncover underlying issues or truths.
- Write with both Big insights and Small details.
- Write about the same idea or topic repeatedly, from different perspectives.
- Imagine how the idea or topic applies to multiple situations in your life.
- Ask tough questions and try to answer them.
- Don't worry about finding "perfect" thoughts. Let your pencil fly! Write freely and you will find your way into new, deeper ideas.
- Take topics and territories you know well and ask, "Where's the mystery here?"
- Link your topic or idea to one thing, then another, then another (to a quote, a statistic, a memory, a classmate's idea).