

# 7 Fatal Mistakes to Avoid When Facing Writer's Block

By Ramona Denton



Are you staring at a blank page, unable to get started on your writing project?

**That's the essence of writer's block.**

You have a deadline. You have to get this written.

But you feel paralyzed, without much of an idea about what to write on that blank page.

Well, you're not alone!

So many of us stumble when starting a new writing project.

**This post will give you solutions to 7 fatal mistakes you may be making when facing writer's block.**

If you see yourself in any of these mistakes, you can overcome writer's block once and for all with a little work and new perspective.

Let's take a look at these mistakes and how to conquer them.

## 1. Staring at a Blank Page

Have you been staring at an empty page, wondering what to write, or how to get started? That's the primary frustration of writer's block.

The only way to conquer the empty page is to write something. *Anything*. Don't worry about being perfect or on-topic. It's your first draft. You're going to delete a lot anyway.

Write whatever comes to mind. "I've gotta get this done, but I just can't focus." *Keep writing*. As you write, you'll be able to shift your focus. Writing is a process.

## 2. Being Unprepared

Are you fully prepared to write the piece that's blocking you? Have you done the research, planning and organization required to understand the material?

Do additional research to get more ideas. Use your favorite brainstorming or outlining techniques to organize your material into main points and sub points.

A free tool like [WorkFlowy](#) may help you outline your article. But it doesn't have to be complicated. It can be as simple as listing your main points on a yellow pad.

## 3. Expecting Your First Draft to be Perfect

Are you expecting to write this in one draft? You know what you want to write. But you can't write it perfectly *on the first try*. Nobody can.

Writing is a process. Your first draft is not your final one. Write something that gets you started in the right direction. You can polish it later.

Try writing something vague about what it should say, "I want to show how dull knives are dangerous." That might be enough to help you jump into your material.

## 4. Planning to Write in Your Spare Time

When do you write? Do you wait for inspiration? Are you productive in the half-hours you grab here and there?

Give writing the priority it deserves. Schedule regular time *in your calendar*. The routine will help you focus and start writing more easily.

It may take a few tries to find a time that you can stick to. Early morning? After dinner? Keep working on it until you build a routine that works for you.



## 5. Failing to Manage Distractions & Interruptions

What distractions and interruptions are you facing that keep you from writing? You can manage most of these outside your scheduled writing times.

Create an environment that helps you stay focused. Silence devices and notifications. Prepare your family for times you will be unavailable.

Deal with unexpected issues by taking notes and addressing them later. If you are interrupted, tell them you can help in 30 minutes.

## 6. Writing in the Wrong Order

What part of the material is holding you back? Are you trying to write the introduction? Struggling with the ending?

Write your article in the order that makes it easiest for you. Usually this is Middle, Beginning, End. Start with the point you know best.

If you start by writing about each point, you will naturally gain new ideas on how your project should be opened and closed.

## 7. Trying to Write and Edit at the Same Time

Are you struggling to get through your first draft? Do you get stuck rewriting sentences that aren't quite right?

The first draft is not the time for editing and polishing. Stop editing and keep writing. Complete your first draft and take a break. Then start editing.

When writing, keep moving forward. Don't stop to edit as you go. When editing, a fresh look at your text will enable you to polish it to perfection.

## You Can Conquer Writer's Block



**Imagine facing off with a new project and a blank page. And it's no big deal.**

You do your research. Organize your thoughts. Decide what to write.

**Imagine that every time you sit down to write, your words flow.**

You don't have to write Shakespeare on your first draft. You can write your thoughts into a rough draft, and make it perfect later.

And the more you write, the more your writing flows. The more you master the process.

No more fear of missing deadlines. No more writing the same sentence 20 times in your first draft.

**You have conquered writer's block for good.** Because you have stopped making the most common mistakes so many of us make when we experience these challenges.

If you struggle with writer's block, try these solutions to improve your writing process.

Next time you have a writing deadline, you will make it no problem!

See more of Ramona Denton's writing samples at:

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