

# Fastwriting

From Bruce Ballenger's *The Curious Writer*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed., p. 6.

E.M. Forster once asked, "How can I tell what I think till I see what I say?" Writers not only record profound thoughts *after* they come; they also write to *find* those thoughts. One way to do this is through a method called *fastwriting*. Here are the "rules":

1. There are no rules.
2. Don't try to write badly, but give yourself permission to do so.
3. To the extent you can, think through writing rather than before it.
4. Keep your pen moving.
5. If you run out of things to say, write about how weird it is to run out of things to say until new thoughts arrive.
6. Silence your internal critic to suspend judgment.
7. Don't censor yourself.