

Incubating ideas for writing

- 1 Think long term: nurture ideas that might take years or even decades to come to fruition.
- 2 Go for a walk: walking is a well-established method for generating ideas.
- 3 Work in a variety of locations: a change of scene encourages fresh thinking.
- 4 Carry a notebook: catch ideas on the wing.
- 5 Periodically re-read your notebooks and index them.
- 6 Instruct your subconscious to continue thinking on a topic even while your conscious mind is busy with something else.
- 7 Read, or listen to, stuff from outside your discipline.
- 8 Read biographies of intellectuals.
- 9 Surround yourself with people who have a strong sense of curiosity.
- 10 Discuss your work with non-specialists: this will help you to formulate your thoughts.

This resource is published as the eighteenth in the Writing Protocols series.

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Resources

Steve Johnson, *Where good ideas come from: the seven patterns of innovation* (Penguin, 2011)

Daniel Kahneman, *Thinking, fast and slow* (Penguin, 2012)

If you work in Cambridge (UK), the Spacefinder website will help you to locate suitable places in which to work: spacefinder.lib.cam.ac.uk. Some other cities have similar websites.

About Frontinus

We help engineers with bids, presentations, papers, reports, and publications.

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