

# Contents

PREFACE	vii
1 <i>Are Writing Blocks Real?</i>	1
A Personal Problem?	1
What Blocks Are Not	5
Thought and Movement	8
Blocks Are Real Writing Problems	11
2 <i>Product and Process</i>	14
The Value of Privacy	14
Stage Fright in Rehearsal	17
What Are You Actually Doing?	21
The Phases of the Writing Process	24
3 <i>Lines, Loops, and Delays</i>	27
Making Lines Out of Loops	27
Euclidean Myths	30
Spiral Progress	33
Notwriting	35
4 <i>Methods, Standards, and Premature Judgments</i>	39
Many Right Ways	39
Whose Standards Are You Trying to Meet?	45
The Challenge of Governing Expectations	49

5	<i>Transitional Blocks in Undergraduate Studies</i>	56
	Diagnostics	56
	Developmental Blocks in the Transition to College	58
	Facing the Necessity of Revision	64
	Institutional Causes and Unfortunate Solutions	69
6	<i>What Is Your Thesis?</i>	71
	Endless Introductions	71
	What Writers Need	76
	Liminality	82
	Rhetorical Supports in the Sciences	86
7	<i>Putting Writing in Its Place</i>	92
	Making the Next Move	92
	Syntactic Block	95
	Settling for Less	100
	Gender, Time, and Space	103
8	<i>Scholarly Production</i>	111
	Synopsis	111
	A Hidden Category	113
	Binge Writing Versus Moderation	116
	Costs and Benefits	119
9	<i>What Can You Do?</i>	125
	The Normality of Writing Blocks	125
	The Reality of a Writing Block	128
	What You Can Do	131
	<i>A Note to Teachers and Advisors</i>	136
	What Teachers Can Do	136
	What Advisors Can Do	139
	REFERENCES	143
	INDEX	147