

University of Nebraska - Lincoln

DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln

Journal of Women in Educational Leadership

Educational Administration, Department of

10-2006

First Things First: Writing Strategies--Drops of Blood

Marilyn L. Grady

University of Nebraska-Lincoln, mgrady1@unl.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/jwel>



Part of the [Educational Administration and Supervision Commons](#), and the [Women's Studies Commons](#)

Grady, Marilyn L., "First Things First: Writing Strategies--Drops of Blood" (2006). *Journal of Women in Educational Leadership*. 202.
<http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/jwel/202>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Educational Administration, Department of at DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln. It has been accepted for inclusion in Journal of Women in Educational Leadership by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln.

FIRST THINGS FIRST: WRITING STRATEGIES

Drops of Blood

Marilyn L. Grady

Recently, I was gifted with the best writing quotation of the season. It follows. “I don’t know how many times I read this Gene Fowler quote: ‘Writing is easy. All you do is stare at a blank sheet of paper until drops of blood form on your forehead’” (Weinberg, 2006, p. 8).

The quote captures the truth of the writing enterprise. It isn’t easy. In fact, if you don’t bleed a little and feel some pain, you aren’t putting enough effort into your work. There are a slew of adages about effort and work. All hold a kernel of truth about the linkage between the amount of effort that is invested in a task and the product that emerges from the effort.

Without sufficient effort, and blood, the product of writing will not be suitable for publication and will not pass successfully through a review process. Persistence, attention to detail, seat time, staring at the blank sheet of paper, all contribute to the quality of the writing experience. Writing, revising, rewriting, starting over, are all parts of the process of writing . . . as is the loneliness of thinking.

Writing demands discipline and commitment. Those who are able to meet the challenge of the discipline, have the reward of seeing their works preserved in published form. It is worth the pain, frustration, and bleeding.

References

Weinberg, G. M. (2006). *Weinberg on writing: The fieldstone method*. New York: Dorset House.