



Find Your Starting Point

You don't need to have your entire manuscript figured out before you begin. Start with what you know.

1. The thing I keep wanting to write about is...

2. I want to write it because...

What makes this story, idea, experience, or message important enough to keep returning to?

3. If someone eventually reads what I write, I hope they...

What do you want them to feel, understand, question, remember, or see differently?

4. At the heart of what I want to say is...

Try to capture the central idea in one sentence. It does not have to be perfect.

5. The part I can see most clearly right now is...

A scene, memory, argument, character, moment, lesson, chapter, or image.

Create one page that didn't exist before.

Set a timer for 20 minutes. Start with the part you can see most clearly.

- Don't worry about whether it belongs at the beginning.
- Don't edit while you're writing.
- Don't worry about whether it's good.

Your only assignment: create one page that didn't exist before.

You don't have to start at the beginning. You just have to start.