

# Discussion Board: Writing Reflects Thinking

## Discussion Prompt

In his latest book, *Write Like This: Teaching Real-World Writing Through Modeling and Mentor Texts*, Kelly Gallagher states the following:

“When teaching students how to write, the most effective strategy is a teacher who writes, and thinks out loud, in front of his or her students. We go first, then they go” (p. 16).

He also explains that few secondary teachers “take the leap and write in front of their students” (p. 15).

## Discussion Questions

- How do you feel about composing text in front of your class?
- How can you show your students that “the struggle they feel when they attempt to write is normal”?
- Why is it important for you to model writing that is authentic, rather than perfect?

## Authentic Writing

- Words do not “magically spill” from your brain to the page/screen.
- Writing is difficult (a struggle) for you at times.
- You often have to “wrestle” with decisions as writing unfolds.
- Writing reflects deeper thinking and leads to the development of new ideas.
- Revising and editing what you have written is an important part of great writing.

REFERENCE: Gallagher, 2011.