



## MEDSCI 722 Principles of Drug Literature Evaluation and Medical Writing (Notes for Lecture Recording)

[Nick Holford](#)

[All sections](#)

21 Aug at 6:44

The [recording of this lecture given in 2019](#) is available on-line. The recording is slow to begin with, due to the late arrival of some of the 2019 students and at first you will only hear the sounds of people finding their seats, but it does get underway after about 2-3 minutes.

The presentation is 2 hours in length. You will need to have a copy of the [Student Notes](#) (<http://clinpharmacol.fmhs.auckland.ac.nz/docs/drug-lit-eval-student-notes.pdf>) with you as these are referred to several times during the presentation.

Due to the delayed start, the lecture is suddenly terminated when the 2-hour limit is reached and the last Powerpoint slide is shut down by the University's system. However, the last 2 slides about Writer's Block are shown below.

For any questions that you may have, the lecturer can be contacted directly at the following location:

**Trevor Speight**

**E-Mail:** [tmsa.speight@xtra.co.nz](mailto:tmsa.speight@xtra.co.nz) (<mailto:tmsa.speight@xtra.co.nz>)

### Overcoming "writer's block"

#### < Factors that give rise to "writer's block":

- Anxiety and boredom
- Defeatist attitudes / task inflation (are you making it worse than it really is)
- A perfectionist attitude and/or unrealistic expectations – *Note:* your first draft won't be perfect

#### < Eliminate all sources of distraction:

- Create right environment for concentrating on the task
- Keep a regular schedule – preferably begin when mind not cluttered and energy levels are highest (e.g. first thing in the morning for "morning" people; late at night for "night owls")
- Set daily time limits or goals for writing.

**< Outlining ideas / brainstorming:**

- Helps to decide where you are going and what to say
- Gives a sense of the length, difficulty, time required
- Try “free-writing” initially – jotting down ideas

**< Draft quickly, revise slowly:**

- Avoid the temptation to edit draft as you write (this will slow you down if you do)
- Consider writing and editing as entirely separate tasks

**< Start writing at whatever point you like:**

- Begin with sections you know best – e.g. in middle
- Leave introduction and discussion sections until later
- Write the conclusions and summary last.

