

# It's hard to have an original thought

The things I know aren't necessarily the things people are interested in

What do you write when you really can't think of anything to say? There are things to be said, but dare they be voiced out loud?

I can't say anything about the corruptness of society, or on the hardships of youth. That would be viewed by most adults as the spouting of an uneducated, ignorant teen-ager. Anything critical said on the way teens dress these days, or the things that they listen to, would be viewed by my peers as traitorous behavior.

What are the safe topics?

I could talk about my favorite thing to eat at lunch. I particularly like toasted peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. But, then I may have to comment on school cafeteria food, and that top-

ic, like airplane food, has been through enough.

Perhaps the behavior of my cat, how he likes to lie in the sun and gets angry if I go out of town for the weekend. How do you tell a cat that you didn't mean to leave him alone? All you wanted to do was go on a little trip and come home to your cat. No, my cat will hold a grudge for a good 20 minutes, but nobody really wants to hear about that.

I could write about a movie that I have seen or a book that I read. That could be difficult. What do you write about a book like "Catch 22"? Everything good has already been said.

I heard that you can never have a purely unique thought. Someone, somewhere has already had that thought. So, there goes the idea of writing something new and fantastically interesting.

To write something that has to be of a certain length and style isn't that easy either. What if something runs right around 400 words? College essays everywhere want 500 words. There are only so many words you can say to describe why you really want to attend a certain college.

And to write something that people want

to read. What age group will respond to this, who will like it, who will get angry over it. It's back to the safety issue again.

I suppose there isn't really anything safe. Someone will take offense and hate you forever. Someone will love it and think you're wonderful. Worst of all, people will be indifferent, and your name will fade away into nothingness.

Write about things that you know, that's what I have been told. I know a lot of things, not to be vain, but I do.

I can use the quadratic formula and I can make a graph. I can tell you the four phases of mitosis and describe what happens in each stage.

Where is the public interest in those things? It's something I know, so shouldn't it be a good topic?

Maybe I'm just trying too hard. If just relax, something brilliant will pop into my mind, and my name will become forever linked with Mark Twain and Hemingway. Well, I tried. Maybe next time.

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