**Research Assessment #5**

**Date:** October 19, 2018

**Subject:** Writing Practices

**Citation:**

Sullivan, Gail M. “So You Want to Write? Practices That Work.” *Journal of Graduate Medical*

*Education* 5.3 (2013): 357–359. *PMC*. Web. 20 Oct. 2018.

**Assessment:**

For my fifth research assessment, I read an article about different writing practices. The article actually starts with a really funny quote that I can definitely relate to, about passing deadlines. It continues on to introduce its main purpose: which is to help translate ideas from a writer’s brain to their paper or computer screen. It talks about why writer’s block can happen, and then goes into strategies that someone could use to help overcome this awful writing struggle. I loved this article, and I am really glad to have stumbled upon it through my research. Since I do not have a specific research topic in mind, I am just looking for articles that interest me, and I think I struck gold with this one! One of my main problems as a writer is that I have a lot of trouble translating my ideas into actual words, which has hindered me at school and in my personal writing. Reading this article, however, gave me some strategies that I will for sure keep in my back pocket. I have heard this from both my informational interviews, research, and teachers over the years: I have to write often to get better. I want to commit myself to the thing I love, but sometimes it can be so hard, so I just need to remind myself why I am doing it in the first place!

Now that December is coming up quick, I need to start on my original work, but college applications, schoolwork, extracurriculars, and work have been keeping me so busy so I think to myself I will make time later but I never do! I am glad that this article reminded me that everyone goes through the same writing stress and made me want to sit down and write now! Technically I am writing this research paper, but I mean my actual short story. Even now that I have altered my study and geared it toward communications, strong writing skills are still extremely important, and I really want to hone mine in and refine them because I know I have the capacity to. Though I am familiar with a lot of the information mentioned in the article, my favorite thing that I learned was that writer’s block was discovered in 1947, which I think is so interesting. Writer’s block truly is the death of all writers, and it is a very interesting concept. I am thinking about making my next research assessment focused on it, because I would love to see what else there is to learn about it, and why it works the way it does. Maybe I could center my research on how I can make myself more productive along with different techniques to improve and refine my skills. For now I will keep practicing, and hopefully by the end of the year I will have become better. I am really looking forward to where my research brings me and, similar to last year, I hope to find to my niche this year in the study of communications/creative writing!