

IMPROVISE...WITH WORDS!

WSMTA Conference – June 29, 2026

Today, we're going to put pen to paper (or fingers to a device) and improvise with words!

“The scariest moment is always just before you start.”
—Stephen King

GOALS:

We will accomplish three writing “etudes:”

- ♪ Write a 5-minute riff on music.
- ♪ Write a 5-minute music autobiography.
- ♪ Write a letter to your future self.

GUIDELINES:

DO: Keep the pen moving (or typing)
Breathe (it's OK to pause)

DON'T: Sensor
Overthink
Correct

FREE-STYLE RIFF ON MUSIC:

- ♪ Describe musical memories.
- ♪ How has music affected your life?
- ♪ How does it make you feel?
- ♪ What's your go-to music?
- ♪ Why do you teach?

FIVE-MINUTE MUSIC AUTOBIOGRAPHY:

- ♪ How old were you when you began studying music?
- ♪ Memories of teachers.
- ♪ Fun times at your instrument.
- ♪ Struggles? Breaks in study?

LETTER TO YOUR FUTURE SELF:

- ♪ What are your hopes and dreams as a teacher, performer, learner?
- ♪ What will be your legacy?
- ♪ What is your vision for your own musical future?

SUMMARY:

- ♪ INSIGHTS?
- ♪ CALL TO ACTION?
- ♪ PLAN NEXT STEPS?

“First forget inspiration. Habit is more dependable. Habit will sustain you whether you’re inspired or not. Habit will help you finish and polish your stories. Inspiration won’t. Habit is persistence in practice.”
—Octavia E. Butler

*Please feel free to reach out if you have questions or comments about the writing process!
Thank you!*

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