“The first draft is the child's draft, where you let it all pour out and then let it romp all over the place, knowing that no one is going to see it and that you can shape it later.”

*–Anne Lamott*

“Almost all good writing begins with terrible first efforts. You need to start somewhere. Start by getting something -- anything -- down on paper.”

*–Anne Lamott*

“What looks inefficient—a rambling process with lots of writing and lots of throwing away—is efficient since it’s the best way you can work up to what you really want to say and how to say it.” – *Peter Elbow*

“Meanings don’t come out of the air; we make them out of a chaos of images, half-truths, remembrances, syntactic fragments, from the mysterious and unformed. The most useful slogan for the composition course—along with ‘how do I know what I mean ‘till I hear what I say?’—is *ex nihilo nihil fit*: out of nothing, nothing can be made.” -*Ann E Berthoff*