

# Mini-Polling on Writing Process

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ACERT Lunchtime Seminar:  
“Building a Sense of Belonging in  
the Classroom”

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# Mini-Poll on First Day of Class

- Informally poll students – write 5 stages on board and ask for show of hands (you can participate too!)
- Invite students to look around the room and see the variety of responses

Let's say there are 5 stages of an assignment.

1. Facing the assignment
2. Starting
3. Doing
4. Finishing
5. Turning it in

Which one do you find the most challenging?

1. Facing the assignment
2. Starting
3. Doing
4. Finishing
5. Turning it in

# Everyone gets stuck somewhere! The key is knowing:

- What stage is challenging for you
- What do you do to make the challenging stage easier?
- What supports do you use?
  - Friends
  - Family
  - Tutoring
  - Other strategies – let's hear them!

# Benefits of Mini-Polling

- Students see they're not alone
- Helps students see their process as **their process**, rather than as a failure to do an imaginary perfect process
- Challenge expectation that you're supposed to be able to do these things alone, or that there's something wrong with you if you can't (especially stages 1 and 5)
- It's all about knowing where you need support
- Getting to know your writing process better is one of the main goals of English 120

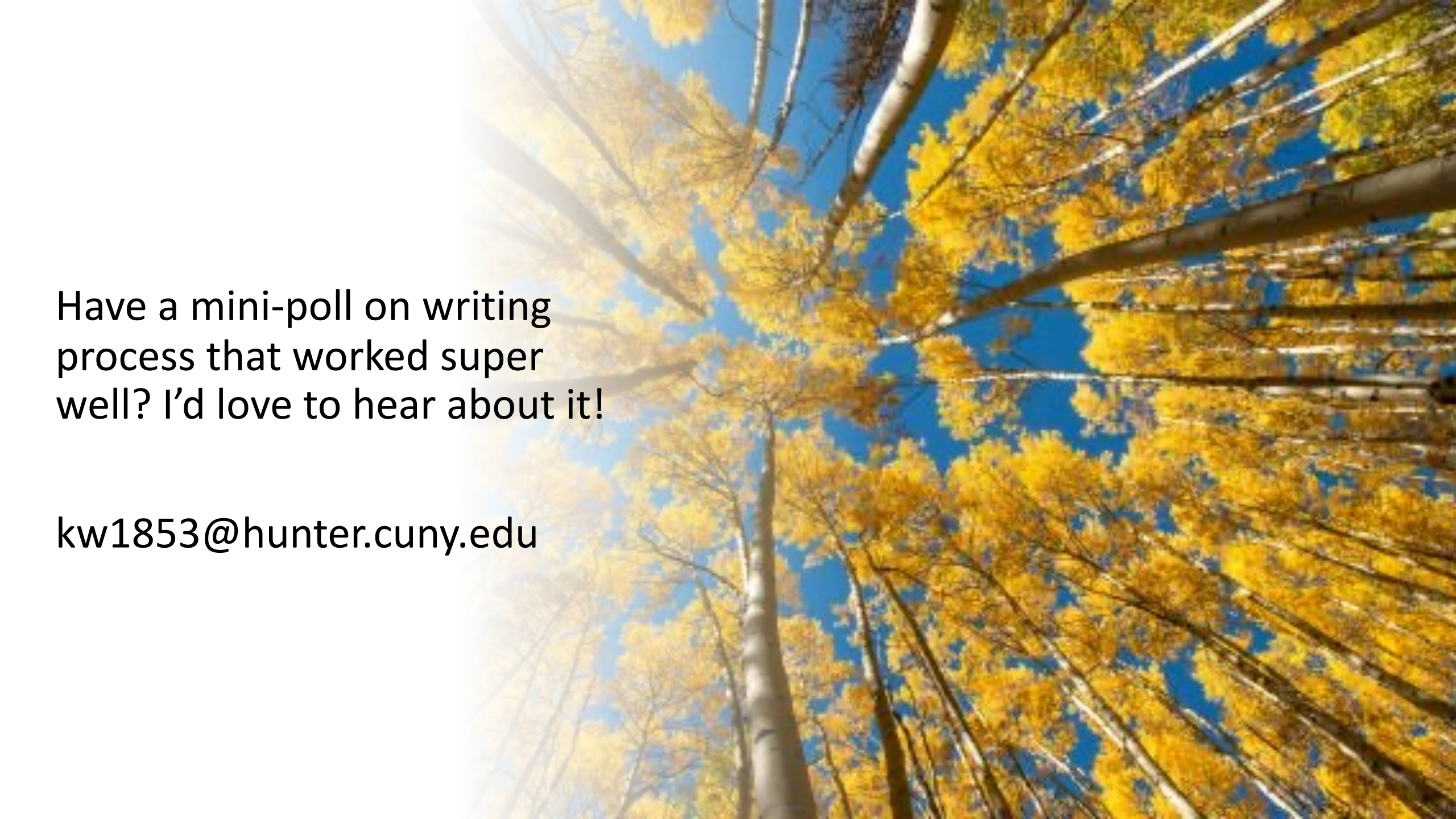
# More Benefits of Mini-Polling

- Everyone's process is unique, but we have things in common
- We are all **collectively** getting to know our **individual** processes
- Build collegial relationships
- Increase sense of belonging!
- Belonging precedes engagement

# Other Mini-Polls on Writing Process

- Mini-poll on ideal writing conditions
- Where do you get your best writing done? Home? Can't write at home because you get distracted by family or Netflix? Need to be away?
- Do you need total silence to write? Music with no lyrics? With lyrics? Background noise, like a café?
- Try to give yourself your best conditions to write.
- Anyone know good strategies for writing? (Pomodoros; apps that plant a virtual tree or show you a kitten when you reach a certain word count; "Rainy Café" app with background noise; etc. Students always have good suggestions I've never heard of)





Have a mini-poll on writing process that worked super well? I'd love to hear about it!

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