

## Writing Productivity Tools by Sarah Pittock, Ph.D.

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### FLOWSTATE

[hailoverman.com/flowstate](http://hailoverman.com/flowstate)

From the website: “Flowstate is the first writing tool to emphasize the distinction between writing and editing. Unlike other writing programs, Flowstate features a sacred space for initial creation, with rigid laws enlisted to unleash a person’s thoughts, feelings, and ideas like water.”

You set a timer for a writing session, from five minutes to three hours. If you stop writing for more than seven seconds, the app will begin to auto-delete your text.

### FREEDOM

[freedom.to](http://freedom.to)

Freedom is an app that blocks distracting websites and apps on your devices. You select what websites and apps you want blocked for what amount of time.

### LEECHBLOCK

[Firefox add-on](#)

Leechblock is a simple productivity tool designed to block those time-wasting sites that can suck the life out of your working day. You specify which sites to block and when to block them.

### OMMWRITER

[ommwriter.com](http://ommwriter.com)

From the website: “Re-connect with your old friends Concentration and Creativity, and discover the bliss of single-tasking.”

Ommwriter takes over your screen, eliminating the clutter of icons, formatting bars, etc. It provides customizable backgrounds that hold your attention and set your mood, audio tracks to focus your mind on your words, and keystroke sounds to support every move on the keyboard.

### RESCUETIME

[rescuetime.com](http://rescuetime.com)

This time measurement tool gives you an accurate picture of how you are spending your time. The app tracks time spent on applications and websites and produces detailed reports based on your activity. You can set alerts to let you know when you’ve spent a certain amount of time on

an activity; block distracting websites; highlight accomplishments; and track time spent on email and in meetings. You will learn when and how you are productive and distracted.

### **SPREEDER**

[www.spreeder.com](http://www.spreeder.com)

Not strictly a writing tool, Spreeder may nevertheless help you scan and assess a robust scholarly conversation in a short amount of time. You paste the text you need to read into a text box, and Spreeder flashes it quickly for you, forcing you to silence the “subvocalization” that causes most readers to read at the same measured pace at which they speak.

### **STRICT WORKFLOW**

[Browser plugin](#)

Based on the famed [Pomodoro technique](#), Strict Workflow enforces 25 minutes of distraction-free work, followed by 5 minutes of break. It is easy to personalize: you can block the sites that are most distracting to you and change the timer durations.

### **WRITTEN? KITTEN!**

[writtenkitten.co](http://writtenkitten.co)

This online app provides you with a textbox that measures your word count. Once you reach your goal, it rewards you with a new image of a kitten, puppy, or bunny. In the darkest days of a long project, you may find the silliness refreshing!

### **750 WORDS**

[750words.com](http://750words.com)

This site encourages people to build a new habit by writing 750 words every day, the equivalent of three pages. 750 words, the creator found, helps writers get to important new ideas almost every day. This online tool will keep track of how often you’re writing and at what pace. It will also keep a record of your mood while writing!