# Computer Support for the Rhythms of Writing

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## Abstract

rtn santyhr atv ty renature an r'requeny of hen yhr s epen on a on ohren a tors hre spost on of hewr ter hetype of text hreexterna representations an hre writer stoos re o puter en oura esnewnyhr sof wrtn reeasyability to a e ow eve revisions with a wor projessor ay ea a writer to os aterapily between o posin an revisin an href a tes offere by o ern wrtn palaes ay ent e hre writer to swith between o poston an space entativites sur as wor ount nor sperrely n re o bine effectistoset up o pexily es of en ale entan referion writing any srupther ow of o poston reart e es ribes he riters Assistant a wrtn environ enties ne to stuly o puter support for wrtn projesses and to nulles by propos n orefouse invest at on of hem yhr sof wrtn tas, an srare un erstan n euw rir an Kaur er ir e rara ter st sor freent wrt n toos an e a E, un r an ir e so a an or an at ona ontext n wrr n wrt n o urs Fower , E e an Luns or i Our own nvest at ons rave on entrate on ir e way ir at wr ters use externa representa

Our own nvest at ons  $\mathbf{x}$  ave on entrate on  $\mathbf{t}$  e way  $\mathbf{t}$  at wr ters use externa representa t ons as an externa e ory as an nter e ate notat on between  $\mathbf{t}$  ou  $\mathbf{t}$  t an text an as a eans of sperfy n onstraint an structure or  $\mathbf{t}$  e wr then text  $\mathbf{t}$  arp es e berton

ex ave a so arr e out exten e stu es of o aborat ve wrt n to entry tre ssues su r as tre part t on n an oor nat on of tas, s trat are entra to tre es n of softwarer or o autror n ow an Goo et rarpes , arp es et a

The an p at on of the set stues of software es n's that exist n wor processors offer on y the support to writers There is a nee for a writin environ entime T assists an entreep so e of writin for a pturin eastore verin af nister on u ent an writ a ows writers work in a one or in roups to set own an stare their easing and in the tions eare everoping the riters Assistant as a too to invest ate the processes of writin an as a prototype writin environ ent. It or bines an easion an serie structure e tor an a text e tor an it is essine to support a variety of writin strate essier verfor an explicit or e of transitions between external representations is a rise is berton if Other art est ave is ussen the everopient of the riter s Assistant is a role of etan. about anyten e se unt we pause rtn merstro ost oter a tv tes n e an n o pete attent on e an wal, or rvea arwe es u taneous yre et n ortal, n o e reat ve a tv tes sur as pant n ay be o e o pete y en ross n but a panter an a so ont nue to alle brust stroles we ero n a onversat on orten, n about we at to o next rat s not poss be wite wrtn

As peexper entw on r t s ry to wr te an easy pee of prose sur as an a ount of wr at I sne I wo, eup tr s orn n an at tresa et ere te tren net es tabe out ou or s enty You w r n yourser a ternat n between wr tn an re tn, t s not poss be to obotr at on e or s tposs be s u taneous y to wr te an to tr n, about tre stru ture of tretext re on y ons ous a ton trata wr ter an perfor wr e pro u n text apartr ro spea, n tretext out ou s to stop Itr o ows trerefore trata wr ter n treat r as two opt ons to be arre a on by tref ow of wors per aps n so e unp anne re t on or to a ternate between tr n, n an wr tn ost wr ters are unable to sustan trestra n of pro on e reat vetext pro u ton a trour as we sr a see ater af ew pro r wr ters an o so an so n trewors of Fran, tree we we we we nan out of ons ous ness

## The Cycle of Engagement and Reflection

rtn ons sts of are u ar ove entbetween en a e entan refeton An en a e wrter s evot n ru attent on to tre tas, of reat n text wretrer the notes or u yr este out prose efeton ons sts of sttn ba, an revew n a or part of tre wrtten ater a r'or n an transfor n eas an pann n wrat new ater a to reate an row to or an set see F ure It s usua y en a e ent n tre prout on of text wrt s est be as be n reat ve It s treat of wrtn trat proues s over es an e but Bo en ras ar ue trat reat v tyar ses a sof ro tre refet ve export on an transfor at on of on eptua spaces Bo en I resu est on n transfor with en a e ent prov n new ater a for ons erat on an refet on offer n are nterpretat on of treat an new pans to be ena te

> Forming and transforming ideas, "exploring conceptual spaces"

Re-reading the written material Planning what material to create and how to organize it

Creating the written material

r ters setup st n tven yhr sor en a e entan reret on repero or tresen yhr s ay be stort as wren a wr ter oo, s ba, over ear senten e as t s wr tten or on wren a wr ter re rea s an ent repee or wr tn an pans a a or rev s on or a y hrere w be so e xture or trese an hrenature an r requeny or hren yhr s epen on a on ohrer r'a tors hre spost on or hre wr ter hre type or text hre representations use n wr tn an hre wr ter s too s

#### The Writer's Disposition

A nu ber of researters Br we Bowes et a , Gran er tave es rbe two types of wrter tre anner an tre Ds overer anners ten to use wrtn as a eans of re or n or o un at n eas with trey tave a really for e with eDs overers use tre at of wrtn as a way of f n n out wrat trey want to say Gabra trues as a roto y n tara ters n a a e treores of wrtn te ass a poston su ests trat

a wr ter un erstan s an eve ops tre top by arry n out enta probe anays s to pro ue eas wr r are tren expresse as text re ro ant post on ro s trat on y tr rour treat of wrt n an a wr ter un erstan rerser an rer top By en a n re t y an e ate y w tr tre text w trout pre p ann n a wr ter a ows eas tor ow past tre barr ers of

ratona trourt On etre easareset own nprys afor trey an aterberewor, e an posre

Gran er su eststrat anners an Ds overers are extre es an trat n v ua wr ters e so ewiere between tre po es butie oes not n ater ow wr ters an er etre two approares en apstrey on y part a y en a ewit tre text wie ewit n or are ab e to or an setter eas at tre sa et e as puttin tre own on paper. But as wer ave seen wr tin snot etrat reator wr tin e an s'u attent on It snot poss betor ave your n so ewiere e se wie perfor n treat v ty nors u taneous y to write an refet rats tuates a writer between the two poles of Ds overer or an per swiether the writer s

r at stuates a wr ter between tre two po es of D s overer or anner swretrer tre wr ter s or ente towar s refet n on or en a n w tre text

r ters whi a anner or entation are riven by refeition for hiese peope writh for was for unierstan n regispen a are proportion of hiert eon exportine eas an on eneratin plans an onstraints to u ehier o posin renhiey write tis nan attempt to arry out a preprepare plan rering the sity sity one of rap a ternation between writin an refeiting a n nor ran es an a lust ents to seep planan text in rar ony Conversely hose with a Disloverer or entation are riven by en all entwith the text for hield unierstan n ar sess for writing registrer to be nawriting tas, by sir bb n out a raft writing reveals the rith out to to be not reread in the site nerice and the site in the area in the and the site of one reperois of enale entry of a grant eric not he text is rering the site of one reperois of enale entry of writing and site of the site of the end of one reperois of enale entry of the site of the end of the text is the site of one reperois of enale entry of the end of the text is the site of the end of the research of the text is the site of the end of the text is the site of the end of the text is the site of the end of the text is one of the end of the text is the site of the end of the text is the site of the end of the text is the site of the end of the text is the site of the end of the text is the site of the end of the text is the site of the end of the text is the site of the end of the text is the site of the end of the text is the site of the end of the text is the site of the end of the text is the site of the end of the text is the site of the end of the text is the site of the text is the site of the end of the text is the site of the end of the text is the site of the end of the text is the site of the end of the text is the site of text is the site of the text is the site of text

At trepoar extre es are trepatro o a spost ons of wr ters wr o are aurt n pro on e en a e entor refeton, trer nrytr ras o eto arat Atone poe are wr ters wrose r'u attent on sr'o use on treat of wrtn r'or on pero s of t e eav n no opportunty r'or on torn or rt a apprasa, requotat on be ow sr'ro treautror ro as or'e

I wrote too  $u \mathbf{r}$  a an I not on y wrote wrat was essent a but t e an t e a an y entrus as r'or a oo s ene one of trose en rant n v stas wr r an open up so a a y to a an ntrefu r'ow of reat on wou overpower e an I wou wr te trous an sof wor son as ene wr r ontr bute not n of v ta portan e to a boo, wrose reatest nee a rea y was rutress on ensat on  $G_{\mathbf{r}}$  se n

At the other poe are the over y refet ve writers who annot turn on the fow of wors ryn to the nation ar about the pans an eta of a text an result ether na o peter brea, own of a to ty or to nter nabet nation, ern with eas an text Dorotry ar. er reporte trat tor ten too. rer ontrs to write a story I trin. tout an tren write tisenten e by senten e nor rist raft I an twriter ve wor's but I ran e seven Br we Bow es et a p

#### The Text Type

For ost writers a ann n or a D s overy approant to writin s not ar in the psymoon a tratil in energy writers are a aptable an they and ter the rapproant tor it the writin tas. In o ary arties en our a erap y esorient a elentant refer ton regare energy on strained by the nee to onstruct a balance ar u entant tor it the text into a onventional for sum as a researm report.

arrat ver ton wrtn nor a yen oural es on er per o sor en a el ent be ause tre wrter nee storete an event or to reate as ene an a ow a ne rara ters to at tout. For tris tis portant trat tre a ne wor sileptinta tan n pro ress A brea. r'or refet on ay estroy tre enta play

#### The Type of Representation

utt n eas own onto paper s not a atter of e pty n tre n but of a tve y re on strut n t

utt n tr n s nto wor s s n ee a, n ons ous wrat ras r trerto not been r'u y so torr

Externa ar, n s su  $\tau$  as s, et  $\tau$  es notes top sts out nes ar u ent stru tures top aps an tre rat text tser are botr representat ons  $\sigma'$  enta ontent an tr n s n tre se ves new st u sso ate r'ro tre o ent  $\sigma'$  tre r pro u t on an ava ab er'or re nterpreta t on  $\tau$  er'or an stru ture  $\sigma'$  tre r'representat on en oura e st n t ve rry tre s as trey are reate an rev s te

repara rapi supports any the of wrtn that at resont ve oa an text present tat on It son enour toro a top or ar u ent but si ort enour for t to represent a run, of eas rewrter an easy stop an san ba, over a para rapi an rea t as a ser ontane unt Both Br we Bowes an atsurasi foun that the wrters they stue pause re u ary at para rapi brea.s

ore re ent y stru ture out nes rave been eve ope to prove an overvew of tre ou ent stru ture an are ner of tre wr ters stru tura pan reyen ourae on er n'requent pauses wre tre wr ter assesses row tre wrt nr ts a enera stru ture otes etwor, strarpes Goo et e berton , r ur an an n

otes etwor, s h arp es Goo et e berton , r hun an an n aps Bu an are nten e as nter e ate representations a owin a writer to visua se asso at ons between enta on epts before o thin the to text nev a owia writer to bu up a ap of the top is to be n u e na text an to show nan easy visua for the re at onships between eas an top s nev offer is the new ways of work in A writer an en a e with an explore easias external objects without the nee to express the as written text nev a so provie a visual rein er of the easian intentions to be referre to write writin. Instea of ta, n a o plete enta break from writin to assess writer the enter the prosefits the intentions a writer an an eat an external e ory to real an eal or and a new note to the network to reion an eat that as arisen urin writin otes etworks an other inter e ate representations sun as ar u entitees ea to new thyth is as the writer oves between text and a ra

e note  $n_{1}$  s an a a e wr ter sess ons  $t_{1}$  at  $t_{1}$  e of ten a ternate between a ra n or tree  $n_{1}$  s eas on paper an wr t n Br we Bow es et a p

n Gran er p reo puter ayr urtrer tear apart tre nt ate reat onsi por trourt an wor

## The Writer's Assistant

reféets of new ternooyon trewrtn proess annot be sussen treabstrat, trere arer ar too any onr oun nr a tors an merenes of wrtn prater at sneee sa soun un erstan nof tree enta an prys a atv tes of wrtn as perfore n mern ontexts an witr mernet toos r sart er as o use on an aspet of wrtn tratras a ne tte attent on trenytrove ent between en a e ent an trn, n It su ests trat tresent ytres so use so wrtn an es ners of new toos for wrters In part u ar we shou ons errow to en our a enew potent a y prout ve y es of en a e ent an refet on row to support ont nue mytrove wrtn an row to a pen stratn mytres



 $F \vdash r$   $t r \vdash s o t$   $r \not t r s Assist nt$ 

e are eve op n tre r ter s Ass stant as a test env ron entr'or stu y n tre pro esses of wrt n re r ter s Ass stant offers tree v ews of tree er n o u ent see F ure a otes etwor, vew wirit a ows the writer to set own eas as notes an to n, the to ether nto a networ, of asso at on a true ture ew wirit ets the writer reate an a n pu ate a structura out ne of the text an a Linear ew wirit enables the writer to type in text with the n u of interference A writer an overape y between the vews by for example reating a rout out ne of in n so e text u pines as notes in, n these notes nto a networ, for in the networ, into a string of text and er in twith the out ne is e programe in the otes etwor, to for a near text and fine n an appropriate pare in the out ne structure to pare the text ere ents in arples Cutterbul, an Goo et in press

One a of the r ters Ass stant s to eve op an nite rate writin environ entror peo pewro reate o pex ou ents as part of the r professional vesibut than a sobe use to nvest ate the effect of new toos an representations on the ewritin profession that each ever us not that s and share is a structure of the r profession of the evertine effect of new toos surface is the right event of the reprofession of the event of the eve

r e r ter s Ass stant s on y ar rst step towar s ore enera support or wr t n er n pen an paper w troputer re D ta Des, be n eve ope by Xerox Euro A C ew an e ner s a e at prov n sea ess ove ent between paper an s reen For tre prototype a v eo a era an a proe tor are suspen e above an or nary es, so trate e tron o u ents an be proe te onto tre es, an paper ones an auto at a y be

t se nto o puter text for tware onne te totre a eraw be ab e tore o n ser an estures sotrat a person wor, n at tre es, an ove tre pro e te o u ents aroun ust as trey wou pusr sreets of paper A wr ter w be ab e to o b netre m'or a ty of wr tten s, et res an notes w tr tre re u ar ty of o puter base out nes p ans an o u ents retrer sur syste sw berate tre wr ter to s over new patterns of wor, n or wr etrer trey w ust ause tre wr t n pro ess to be o e onfuse an srar on ous w epen onrow we trey are ab e to support an au entiter a artight s of wr t n

### References

Bo en i recreative n ytrisan erans s Lon on e ente an o son Br we Bow es L Jornson an Brere Co posin an o puters asestu es of experience writers In A atsurasi e rtn n o n pro ton pro ss s i orwoo J Ab ex

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H s a e J Lawren e Er bau

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