

## STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS IN WRITING

A. 'Know yourself': becoming a reflective writer

What kind of a writer are you?

- Identify ONE weakness in your writing at present.

B. 'Nothing in excess': common excesses to be avoided:

1. Coverage:

- Filling
- Stuffing

2. Thesis:

- Rambling
- Forcing (the transgression of Procrustes)

3. Evidence:

- Pontificating
- Stringing together quotations

4. Language:

- Grooving
- Archaizing

5. General:

- Gushing
- Generalizing

Three rules of thumb:

1. Give yourself time to grapple, question, process, formulate, write.
2. Be your own worst critic.
3. Proof, proof, proof!

### **A note on citations for the first paper:**

**If the author is "named in a signal phrase" or otherwise clear:**

- for Herodotus use book number and paragraph number, e.g. (1.7)

**If the author is not named in a signal phrase or otherwise clear:**

- for Herodotus and Plato add their names to the book number and paragraph number, e.g. (Herodotus 1.7)
- for the Behistun inscription include the italicized title with the paragraph number e.g. (*Behistun* 10)