

Day 2

Note: The process of accretion is one of taking separate things and slowly merging them to make larger and larger objects, which eventually combine into one large piece. For the next few days, the prompts will follow the same basic idea. You can make a choice about how far afield you want to roam to find these things to incorporate. The resource exercises are there to give you some material to work from if you want.

Gather a few more bits and pieces (these might be images, fragments of language, scenes from memory, an event, a description of a person, a specific kind of knowledge, today's weather report...) and play with bringing them near to each other in different combinations until something has a kind of heat or interest for you. You might make this combination by setting the pieces into a story somehow, using characters to anchor their joining, but don't pressure yourself to jump to story (or argument, if you're essaying) if it doesn't easily percolate from the material at hand. You may choose to use these bits and pieces to augment or transform what you wrote yesterday; you may choose to start at a different center.

A simpler way to say this might just be: add some more stuff to what you wrote yesterday. Think about what draws that stuff to the other stuff. You can make a new pile of stuff or add to the one you started yesterday.

Warmup: Minute Lists

Come up with four or five minute lists (see Day 1's description of this warmup) or cycle through the alphabet a few times (a word beginning with A, a word beginning with B, a word beginning with C, etc.). If you're making your own set, try to balance out specialized vocabulary (e.g. words pertaining to baking), names (real or invented), and sonic approaches (e.g. words starting with CH). Here are a few offerings for today to take or leave: names of childhood friends, words for types of transformation, words beginning with L, names of mountains.

Tuning: Rest and Energy Interleave

Do a timed writing (suggested five–seven minutes) reflecting on things that give you energy and things that bring you to rest. Interleave the two directions, so that your writing faces alternately toward energy and rest. Be honest with yourself, and try to be exact.

Generator: Swerving Self-Interview

Do a self-interview (wherein you pose yourself questions and then fully answer them) on what you're interested in writing about or around during this accretion month. Let each question follow up on something specific in the prior answer, clarifying or challenging it. Part-way through the self-interview, allow your Questioner and Answerer selves to slide into two fictional (or nonfictional, borrowed) voices.