When you think you’re not ready to write, try these writing prompts...

At the beginning of your project:
- What do I already know about this topic?
- Why do I care about this topic?
- Why is this topic important to people other than myself?
- What more do I want to learn about this topic?
- What is the main question that I am trying to answer?
- Where can I look for additional information?
- Who is my audience and how can I reach them?

While researching:
So, why did you write these notes? How can you interpret them?
- Interpreting the context of a primary or secondary source:
  a. Who wrote the source?
  b. Why was it written? What was the agenda/argument behind the source?
  c. Is it reliable?
  d. How does it speak to other scholarship in the field?
- Identifying the significance of a source:
  a. How does this source answer (or complicate) my guiding research questions?
  b. Does it pose new questions for my project? If so, which?

Throughout your project:
- What’s my main argument? How has it changed since I began the project?
- What’s the most important evidence that I have in support of my “big point” at the moment?
- What questions do my sources not answer?
- Does my project reinforce or contradict noted scholars in my field? How?
- What is the most surprising finding of my research so far?
- What is the most frustrating part of this project?
- What is the most rewarding part of this project?