Generative Writing Prompts

*Speculative Starters*

These prompts to thinking in a speculative, generative way invite us to

“think out loud” in our exploratory writing. They serve to spark thinking, and

assist in “noticing sensations.” They can be used to catalyze thinking by

oneself, or responding to someone else in Column 2 in the 4-Column Notebook,

Ann Berthoff’s strategy for furthering an “ongoing audit of meaning” with another.

Speculative Starters:

1. I noticed. . .
2. I wonder. . .
3. I was reminded of. . .
4. I’m surprised that. . .
5. I’d like to know. . .
6. I realized. . .
7. If I were. . .
8. Once consequence of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_could be\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
9. If\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, then. . . .
10. Although it seems . . . .
11. I’m struck by. . . . .
12. I don’t understand. . . .
13. I think. . . .
14. I’m not sure. . . .
15. One consequence of. . . .
16. I realized. . .
17. If I were. . . .
18. I’m confused by. . . .