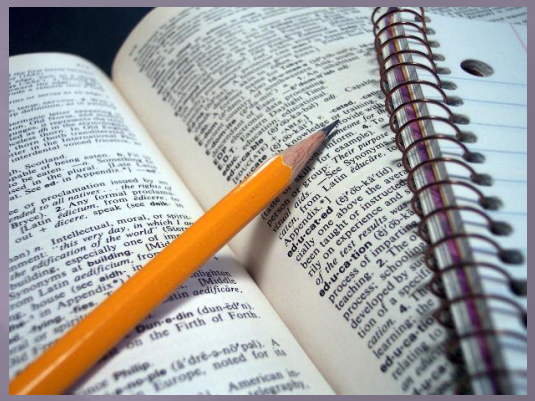
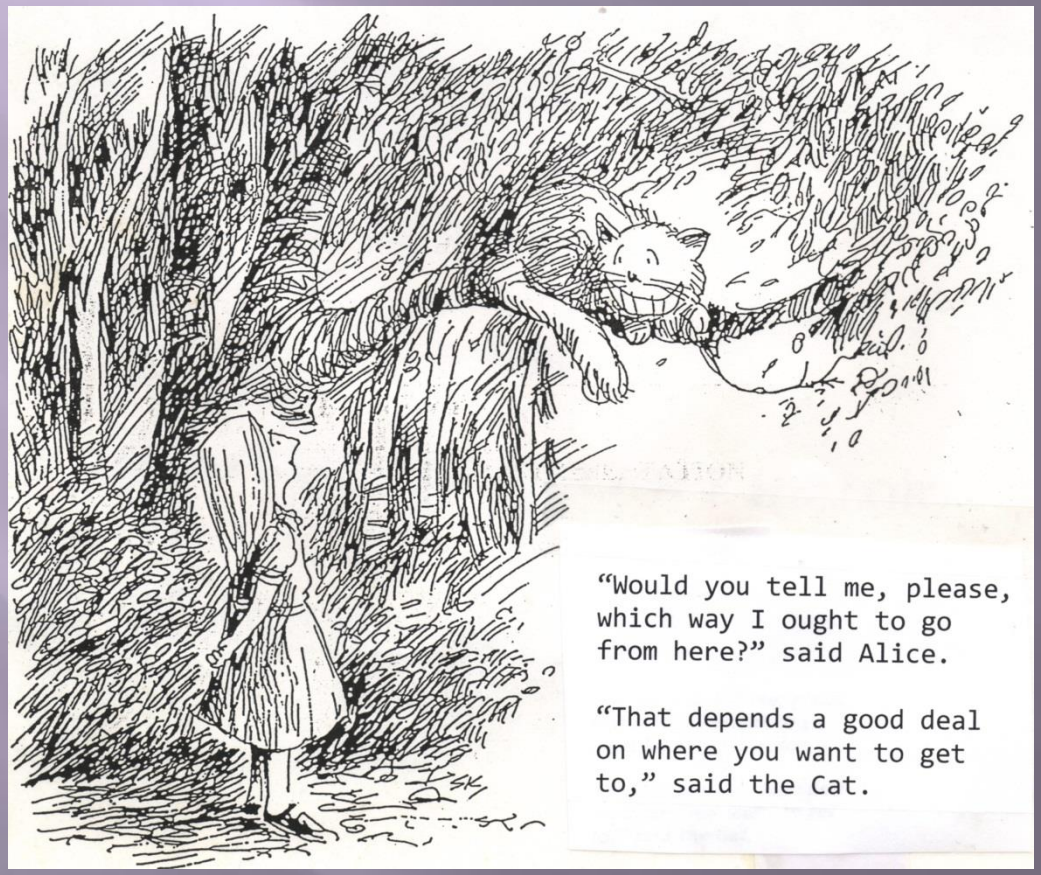
YOUR FAMILY STORY

Write it! Publish it!

Presenters: Noeline Kyle & Lorraine Purcell



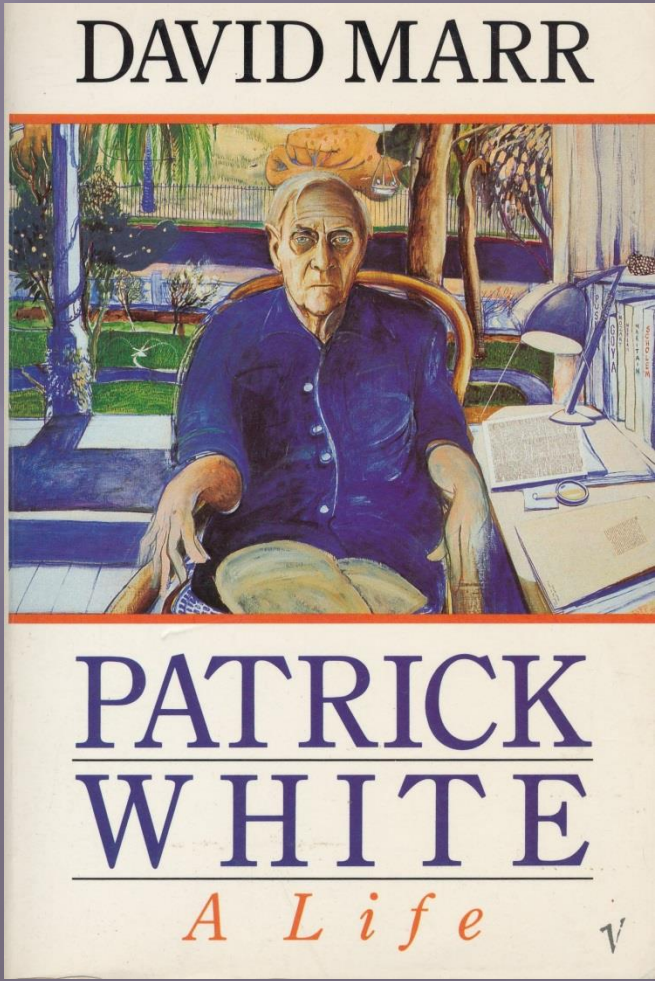
Where do you want to get to?



Where do you begin?

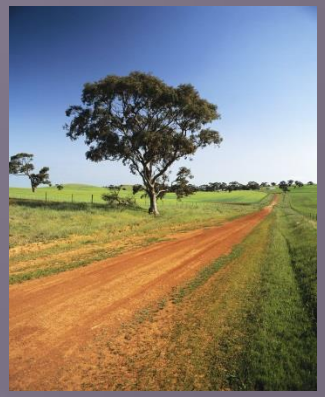
- Where do you begin? At the beginning? By getting organised? Planning?

- David Marr, *Patrick White: A life*



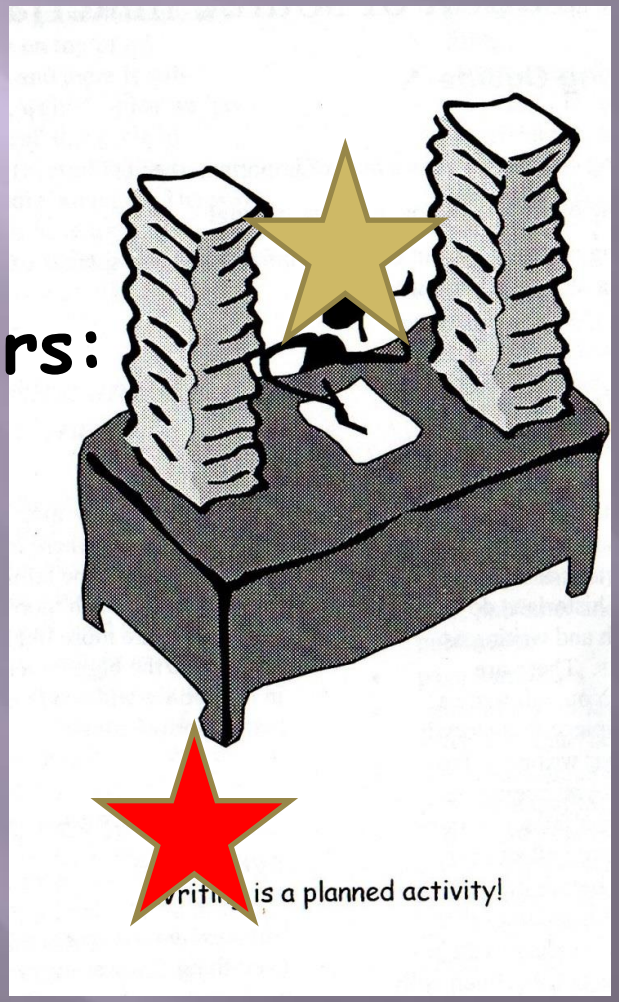
Planning

A writing roadmap: a rough plan



- A simple list, a rough plan
- Changing the plan, it is not in the stars at all!
- Filling in the gaps later

Exercise - Planning



Possible title:

Possible chapters:

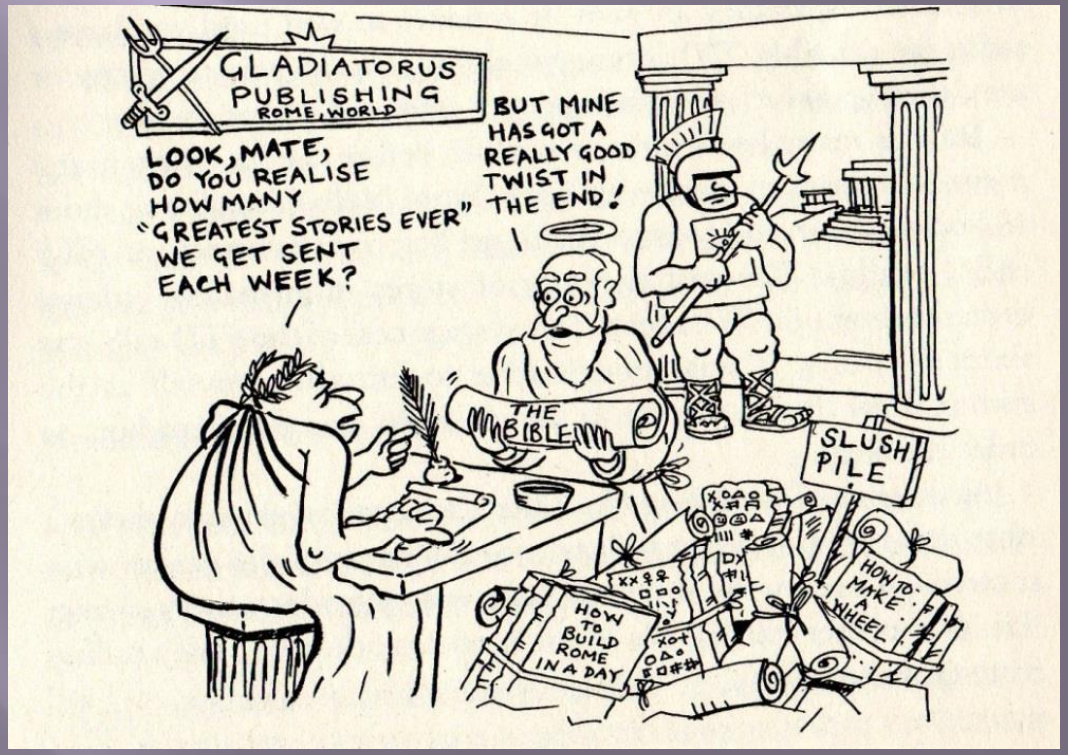
Sources:

What are family expectations?

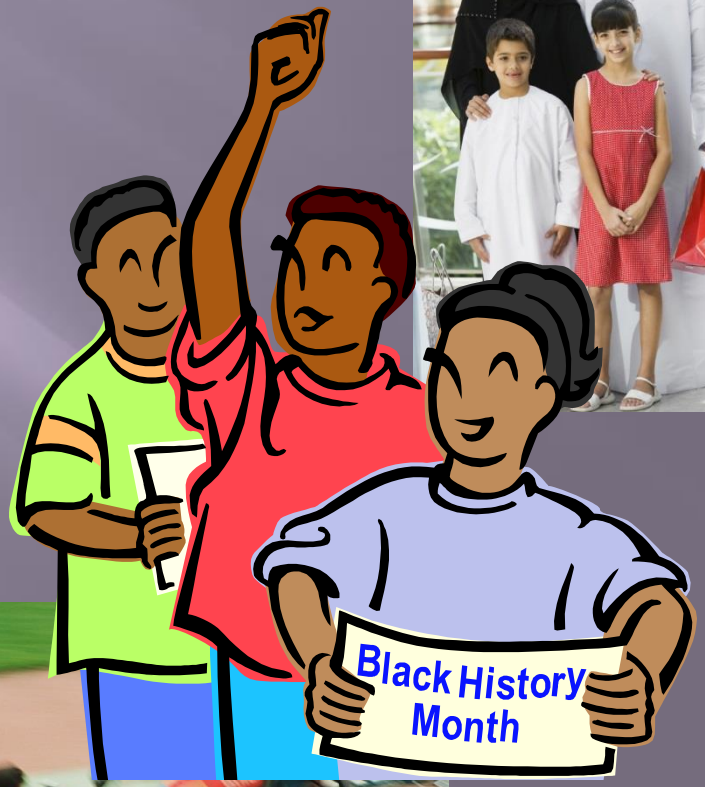
Basic information?

- Origins
- Biographical data
- What is unique about your family?
- Photographs
- What do you want to write?

Setting limits

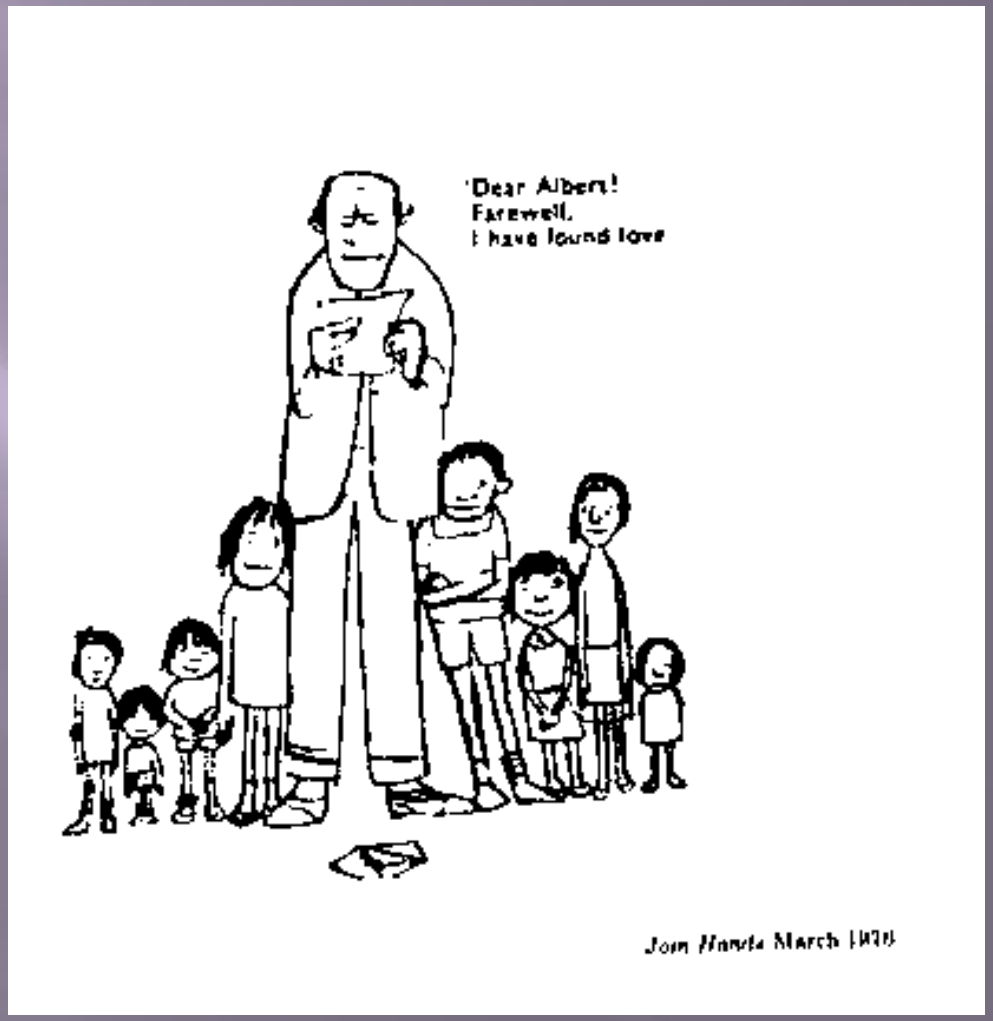


A hook to hang your story on!



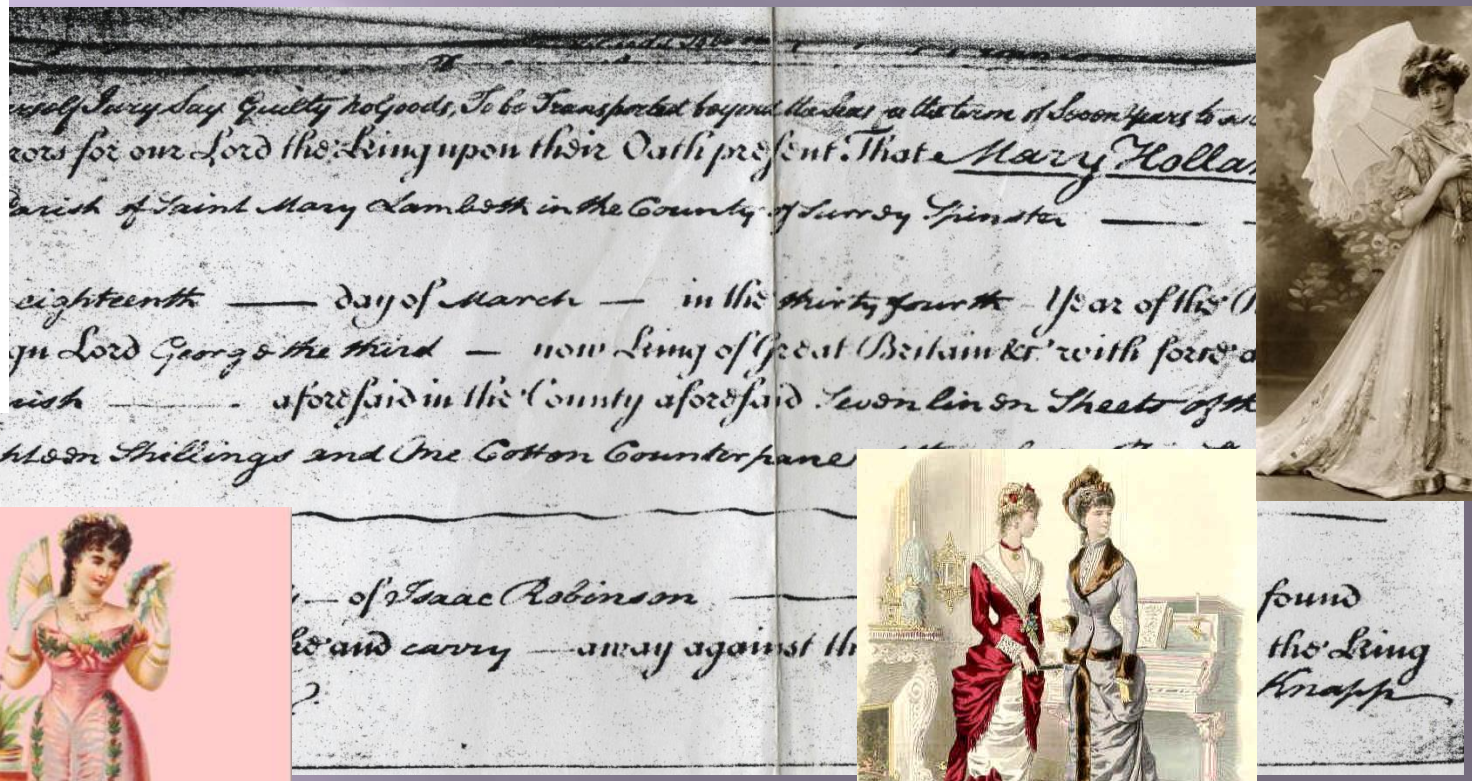
What to put in?

- Births, deaths, marriages
- Parentage
- Work
- Schooling
- The other woman
- Other



Dear Albert, Farewell, I have found love!

What to leave out?



eighteenth — day of March — in the thirty fourth Year of the
gn Lord George the third — now King of Great Britain &c. with force a
aforesaid in the County aforesaid Seven Linen Sheets of the
of Eighteen Shillings and One Cotton Counterpane
of Isaac Robinson
and carry — away against the
found
the King
Knapp

Using Strategies, Balancing ideas

<u>Interpretation:</u>

Of facts, ideas, debates, conflicts, events - are the very heart of writing history.

<u>Use imagination</u> to fill in the gaps

This is where interpretation, imagination, creativity, further research on broader historical contexts and a good sense of history comes into its own.

Defamation & Libel – ethics, privacy and sharing information with others

Ethics

- -Standards for sharing information with others – see website of National Genealogical Society
  http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/cs/ngs_stand guidelines

- Ethics Policy – see ancestry.com.au for interesting and useful articles…

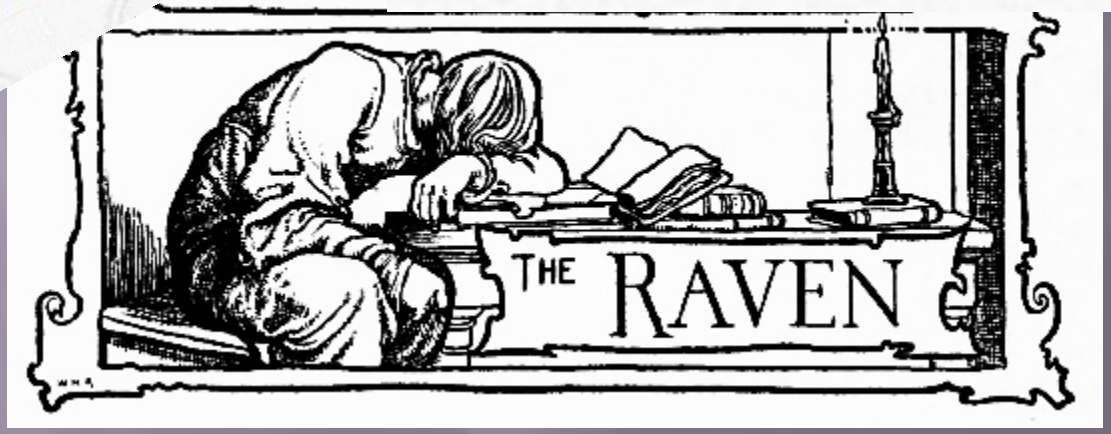
The test: if all the information you plan to share came from your own research into public records, you can share it without fear of violating someone else's rights, but if you some of your information came from people, publications, or privately owned documents, take a second look – there may be legal, ethical restrictions or conditions on its use…..however….look also at issues of sensitivity, family politics, whether anyone will speak to you again.

Writing exercise - ethics

- There are sensitive issues in family history: separation, divorce, domestic violence, child abuse, desertion, bigamy, business failure, bankruptcy, criminal activity, corrupt activity, cruelty, sibling rivalry and/or conflict, father/child differences and conflict, mother/child differences and conflict, adoption, the removal of children because they were Aboriginal, disabled or considered difficult, institutionalisation (into "lunatic asylums", reformatories, etc), and differing versions of all of these held by individual members of the family.
- **Make a list of five people who might read your book. Write how you think they will react to the inclusion of information that is in dispute or has been kept secret or you believe/suspect they might not even know about.**

eResources

Indexes Online



The six word biography

- *For sale baby shoes, never worn* **'Ernest Hemingway'**
- *Revenge is living well without you,* **'Joyce Carol Oates'**
- *Same mistakes. over and over again,* **'Matthew Oransky'**
- *Made a mess, cleaned it up,* **'Amy Anderson'**
- *Everyone who loved me is dead,* **'Ellen Fanning'**
- **'Grew up, grew old, grew wise,' Anon**

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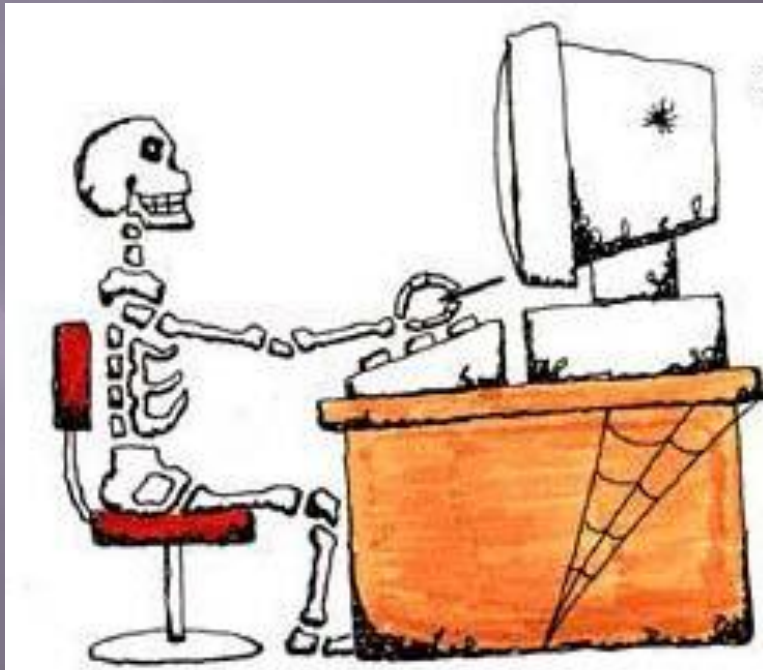

I can quit any time I want...