FIVE WRITERS.   Which one(s) are *you* …?

LEAPER ?

"I don't know, to begin with, where my ideas are going. I just start to write, to see where it takes me …"

"I write in chunks, each piece dealing separately with a key idea or image. When these are finished, I try to make it all fit together."

CRAZY PAVER ?

RUMINATOR ?

"I find the main landmarks, get some idea of the landscape of the piece – then I steer a course through salient points, correcting my bearings as I go …"

MAP-READER / HIKER ?

BLUEPRINTER ?

"I do all the pondering first. I wait until, *finally*, it gels in my head, more or less as a finished item. Only *then* do I write it down – sometimes in one go …"

"I structure it 'as a whole', *before* the detail comes. I sketch out my ideas for the entire piece *first* : and this is the plan I mostly stick to as I work on the finer points."

OR   …. A mixture of these?   …. Something else?   …. Depends on the kind of piece you're writing?   …. It changes as you go?

What are the ups & downs for each type? To FIND OUT, & to deal with the limitations of your type, READ ON…!

	some possible advantages…	*some possible **dis**advantages…*	*What to try…*
LEAPER	* Real sense of adventure! * Gets you started, without delay. * Gets job done, in <u>some</u> form…	* Can get lost, lose thread, miss things. * No clear structure, no 'whole'. * Might jump into a dead end (or pit!).	BLUEPRINTER & RUMINATOR
CRAZY PAVER	* Builds bit by bit, with small units. * Can pick different combinations. * Thoroughness without overwhelm.	* Gets too complex; too many bits! * Bits don't fit or "speak to one another". * Fractured, haphazard, inconclusive.	RUMINATOR & LEAPER
RUMINATOR	* No false starts! Good foundations. * Conviction, confidence, unity. * Can capture a big idea.	* You lose it. It never gets started! * Can lack spontaneity. * Overwhelming: big initial effort.	LEAPER & MAP-READER
BLUEPRINTER	* You've a plan, know what to do! * Strong structure. Coherence. * Avoids distraction, digression.	* What if the plan is imperfect? * Difficult to adapt or evolve. * Square pegs in round holes!	MAP-READER & CRAZY PAVER
MAP-READER	* Purposeful (yet flexible/ adaptable). * Open (without being aimless). * You rarely feel lost. Gets you there.	* What if you miss a major landmark? * Once started, can't change radically? * What if the destination is unclear?	CRAZY PAVER & BLUEPRINTER

For your next writing project, why not adopt an approach you don't *normally* use…?

Either try my suggestions in the last column (above) or pick any of the 5 Writers you wish!