1. Find a picture of someone in a magazine or newspaper to base a character on (not a known or named person) – artworks are good places to look.
2. Imagine details about this person’s life.
3. Find an interesting story from somewhere – such as ‘That’s Life’ in The Mercury or ‘The Odd Spot’ in The Age, to inspire the basis of a plot involving your character.
4. Listen in on some conversations (discreetly without snooping) and write down snippets of the dialogue.
5. Put as many of these ingredients together as possible into a short, third-person narrative.

Susannah Hart – Despard Gallery
"Untitled (vines)"
155 x 105 cm acrylic on canvas 2011

The Craft of Writing – Experimentation!

1. A folio of three short pieces, using a range of forms, genres and techniques, and demonstrating experimentation.
2. 1500-2000 word total.
3. A Reflective Statement must be submitted for each piece explaining your experimentation.

ENGLISH WRITING 3
Size: 15 points

This subject is for students who enjoy creative writing and using their imagination. Students must be able to work independently in the relaxed setting of a community of writers. Students will explore different types of writing and will also have the opportunity to specialise in their favourite kind. Through the crafting and refining of their work, students develop their writing skills and grow in understanding of language techniques and their impact on an audience. It is a course that suits Year 12 students, as well as Year 11 students who have strong literacy skills. Wide reading for stimulus and models is essential.

The course consists of a number of modules and, as students work through them, they will:

- find out about approaches to writing and the use of specific techniques
- complete a wide variety of writing
- read the work of published authors
- share their writing and respond constructively to the work of others
- maintain a writer’s notebook
- complete a major writing project
- prepare a folio of their best pieces for external assessment

Pathways: English Writing provides valuable skills for students intending to study humanities courses including education, philosophy, law and journalism. It is a first step to becoming a published writer.