TRY-an-ANGLE

Upon first glance, the shape in the lines below looks like a triangle. Let your imagination wander as you look at the shape from all sorts of angles and write down a list of other things it might be. The first ones that came to me were a slice of pizza and an ice cream cone (it says a lot about where my mind is).

Use each and every item you came up with in a story that starts:

The air in the space station was ...

TAKE THE NEXT STEP

Should you ever get stuck, it might help to look at your work from new and different angles. Try reading what you were working on from the bottom to the top, word by word. Or turn it upside down and see which words jump out at you. Or maybe hold it up to a mirror and see which words make the neatest-looking patterns. The oddness and silliness of this exercise will give your mind a chance to take the break it needs. In the process, you will hopefully see things a bit differently and allow the next step to surface. Think of it as turning a frown upside down—with your writing.