

How to write well?

Essay 1

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This might be a question you ask yourself every now and then. Well, the answer lies in how you look at writing, and what you are trying to accomplish with it. Therefore, you will have to sit and think. Ask yourself a few simple questions: what is it I want to write about? Once you have answered this question, you can go on to ask the second question, that is, why it is important to write about this subject? With that question answered, you can ask another one: whom am I writing for? Asking this question, you clarify to yourself who your audience is, and what elements your writing has to have to serve the needs of this particular audience.

Now that you clearly know what subject you are writing about, and who your audience is, you have to take your time and do something that does not seem amusing enough by today's standards: thinking. Thinking allows you to develop your raw ideas and plan your writing accurately. Moreover, thinking will have to be incessant, as continuous thinking helps you refine your writing and adjust your approach to writing about your subject. It will also enable you to assess your ideas and critique your hypotheses. If you think about something and upon writing cease to think critically about the subject and arguments you make as you go on, your writing will be decorated with all the seemingly important words, each of which being devoid of material. Worse than that, without constant thinking while writing, your initial thoughts won't evolve. This is noteworthy because thought evolution may take you somewhere you haven't predicted, which could be even more striking and crucial than what you have been envisioning. Aside from the aforementioned flaws of the moulded-thought writing (writing without

reformulating, reshaping, and re-evaluating of the initial thoughts), writing while not constantly thinking will eventually strip words of their true meaning and purpose. This word-wasting writing practice will spread to the point where written words lose their piercing effect.

If you look around on the Internet, you will find articles, essays, and written pieces in general, in uncountable numbers. Nonetheless, looking close enough, you will notice that good writing is not as abundant as writing itself is. Why is that? There are various reasons as to why quality writing is, if not scarce, not common. I think one of the major reasons for the abundance of low quality writing, or more honestly, bad writing is the presence of an unhealthy belief among many of us that our thoughts and opinions merit immediate publication. We are told by “compassionate” self-help experts here and there that we must write and publish (i.e. publishing online using available platforms). Those “kind people” emphasize that you should write profusely and publish, the profusely writing part of which is something I absolutely agree with. But, here enters my criticism: yes, of course, I should write and write and write, but, should I publish, publish, and publish? To answer this question, you will have to view your writing from two angles. One is the merits of your content and thoughts, the other is the way you wrote them.

Let’s address the first one. You should interrogate yourself and ask whether the subject you intend to write about is worth your readers’ time or not? It is a question you have asked yourself in the beginning. If your answer were yes, then ask another question: do I have the minimum knowledge and material required to write about this particular subject, or I am going to throw many words in and try to inflate the insignificance of my content and hide my lack of knowledge or understanding only to impress and make others believe in what I don’t have? Answering these questions with absolute honesty, on the one hand, can be

heartbreaking and disappointing. For this very reason many of us choose to confirm the worthiness of our thoughts just to avoid facing the bitter truth that our thoughts are banal. Of course these are the questions you ask before writing, but asking them in the process of writing is crucial as well. In fact, it is more important to ask these question while writing since as you write you develop your ideas and put them in a logical order; therefore, you have a better outlook on your thoughts and writing. So, don't be startled if you found half way through writing that it was worthless. Indeed, realizing the worthlessness of your writing is good for you. Then, throw it away without hesitation, and remember that throwing your writing away is not admitting to a failure. It is, certainly, an achievement.

But, knowing and facing your arch enemy—who is your insincerity toward yourself—anywhere in the writing process, is nothing short of being brave, insightful, and thoughtful. On the other hand, if you found your thoughts meriting consideration, you now have to plan your writing. Here comes the importance of your grasp of language, and how well you can use it to your benefit.

To be continued ...