

Cole Bradley

Rhet 105

Writing is a mess and Reading is a pleasure

While I agree with LaMott's statement that *Shitty first drafts* are a necessity to the writing process, and I frequently use my skill at typing quickly to fulfill this need, I do not use or find a need for Adler's method to truly own a book. To some extent, Bradbury does use Adler's method, best shown when he was writing *Fahrenheit 451* and constantly went back to books to find quotes or inspiration from them. This version, or piece, of Adler's advice is something that I do use and feel is extremely useful, re-reading. When I enjoy a book I do seek to know and own it as Adler says but I refuse to do so by marking as it feels very distant and more like work than a book should be, I prefer to continue to absorb and reabsorb the text until I can say that I recall all of its substance. This way, while surely harder to learn a book by than Adler's prescribed method, to me would be more true to owning a book as it would mean knowing the books scenes and arguments by heart rather than having them locked inside the book only to be re-lived when reading one's own notes.

Using LaMott's advice and my own version of Adler's, I find Bradbury's technique of using time as though it was imperative to finish that session to be most like mine. He locked himself away and ran with it until he was finished, though I do not mean to say I write last minute and hurriedly but that I prefer to be alone, pouring through many ideas, writing them down and reforming them later in the session rather than taking a break and losing that rush. Once the session feels at its end and well-used, frequently my first step to reform is to re-read the entire paper and pick out chunks I do not enjoy and find awkward or change ideas if I find them lacking what I meant to say. I find this very similar to LaMott's first drafts, as this too starts

writing by not thinking and getting bare minimum processes down as they come to mind before I decide what I want them to appear as in the end. While you can ignore and skip LaMott's version of drafting, it is very valuable as it gives the writer friction to begin writing as many students' major issues is that they cannot find a place to start and thus become frustrated with the paper and lack of progress. Despite the gibberish start of these drafts, they are necessary to quicken and strengthen the coming of the final draft. A student waiting for the right ideas and proper writing to come before starting a paper is like a blacksmith refusing to turn his raw iron into steel and instead trying to find the steel on the ground for his work.