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Rhet 105

387 words

### Growth Rooted in Simplicity

Progression is the gradual development towards a more advanced state; many view progression as the ability to abandon old and simpler ways of habit. Writers such as Anne Lamott, Mortimer Adler, and Ray Bradbury agree that no matter how intelligent or sophisticated, the most simple ways of the mind will always find the true potential of intelligence.

Anne Lamott's "Shitty First Drafts" describes the progression of being a successful writer. Successful writers never publish elegant first drafts but eventually write elegant second and third drafts. According to Lamott, attempting to write in such a rational and sophisticated manner for the first draft restricts the writer's complete thoughts and ideas. Writing a first draft is synonymous to spilling ideas and thoughts directly on paper (Lamott).

In comparison, Mortimer Adler's "How to Mark a Book" conveys a very similar message to that of Lamott's "Shitty First Drafts". A book isn't thoroughly capable of being understood unless the reader incorporates his/her thoughts and analyses. Although more time-consuming, Adler argues that "writing between the lines is necessary for the most efficient reading" (Adler). Writing helps capture the most simple yet most noteworthy of thoughts. Adler refers to Arturo Toscanini, a great conductor because of his c-minor symphony musical score. Toscanini took the time to make so many notations on

his musical scores that no one but a maestro could read them. In other words, being too intelligent to “write between the lines” doesn’t exist. Simplicity does not insult intelligence but only furthers it (Adler).

Ray Bradbury’s discussion of the development of *Fahrenheit 451* identifies with growth in simplicity but in a slightly different light. The ideas that contributed to Bradbury’s *Fahrenheit 451* were rooted in his childhood. As simple as walking into a library for the first time, Bradbury knew he wanted to be a writer. The simplicity of his childhood allowed him to grow as a dedicated writer. In comparison to the writings of Lamott and Adler, Bradbury stresses the importance of simplicity in relationship to the utmost development and sophistication.

True intelligence is rooted in the steady progression of accumulating thoughts and ideas. Attempting to think so rationally does not equate to high intelligence. Lamott, Adler, and Bradbury conclude that the impression of intelligence requires more work.