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The Hidden Blood, Sweat, and Tears That Goes into Reading and Writing:

A Critical Response to Three Sources

Although basketball players look great when they hit the court, there is a lot of blood, sweat, and tears that goes into looking effortless on the court. The same way basketball players make playing basketball look uncomplicated is the same way writers and readers go about making reading and writing look so simple. Anne Lamott's strategy for writing papers is very similar to mine, for she starts out with just her "down paper" where she lets all of her thoughts out on paper. After getting all my theories out, I then go through and mark my first draft completely as if I was Picasso, and similar to the way Mortimer Adler describes marking up books. There is a very long process in writing, but wrapped in that long process should be love and passion the way Ray Bradbury explains. Ray Bradbury is truly a person that puts passion before everything, which is probably why he is a successful. Great writing has characteristics including being well-thought out, careful revisions and passion. Therefore, writing seemingly unchallenged can only be accomplished through tided up blood, sweat, and tears like basketball player.

Though entailing of some forms of foul language, Anne Lamott's "Shitty first Drafts" goes into depth around the idea of very rough "rough drafts." Lamott's central argument is that usually there is a long process behind the scenes of a well-crafted paper. Lamott supports her claim through her writing food reviews. Although she had been writing reviews for years, she

would still get cold feet whenever she wrote something. She would start with first drafts that were so horrible and scrambled that she would semi-panic shortly after writing her “child’s draft.” Lamott describes the first part of her writing process as treating the first draft as the downdraft where she just gets everything on paper. Every single thought that comes to mind, no matter how insignificant or noteworthy the thought is, she just writes it down. I can very much so relate to this technique of writing. My writing is so jumbled in my first draft that I don't even call it a first draft; It usually consists of a sheet of line paper, no clear format, and sloppy handwriting.

Adler Mortimer’s “How to Mark a Book,” describes me as a reader to a tee. Mortimer’s main argument is that viciously marking up a book is one of the most effective ways of reading a book. Mortimer supports this claim through describing the benefits from being an active reader, for he even states that “The marked book is usually the thought-through book.” He examines the fact that writing thoughts down usually helps readers remember thoughts better. Marking a book genuinely leads to a better understanding of a book. Mortimer stated that “Confusion about what it means to own a book leads people to a false reverence for paper, binding, and type—a respect for the physical thing—the craft of the printer rather than the genius of the author.” I strongly agree with this statement on many different levels. I can relate this idea to church in my own life. I believe some Church goers get too dressed up for Church and end up turning Church into a fashion show rather than a place of learning to worship the Most High God. I feel like there is more respect for the architectural building Church than there is respect for the beauty of learning the word of God. Similarly to the way readers forget the importance of reading through having respect for a printer, Church goes forget the importance of learning God’s word through having respect for a building.

After listening to Ray Bradbury's discussion of *Fahrenheit 451*, it is clear to see that he loves reading and writing. Viewers can feel his passion as he discusses his history with reading and writing in his life. Bradbury describes going to the Library as walking into a place with people waiting for him with books being manifested as people. Bradbury made one statement that stuck with me which is that "you don't have to burn books to destroy culture. Just get people to stop reading them." Reading is power and Bradbury even explains the power of reading in his discussion. He essentially says that being part of civilization is virtually impossible without the capacity to read and write. I agree with this idea to the fullest, for reading will open doors, answer questions, and even spark minds. I will not say that I love reading and that I always read in my spare time, but I do find that when I read I learn a lot more than I expect to.