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Benefits of Textual Analysis

With the advancement of technology in the 21st century, there are fewer readers today compared to the past, this leads to the importance of reading and writing being forgotten. In Ray Bradbury's discussion of *Fahrenheit 451*, Bradbury talks about how books and the ability to read allows people to create a civilization and a democracy. He elaborates by saying books give a complete education in life and teaches you how to vote in a democracy ("Fahrenheit 451"). He says that we are a democracy of readers and that's what makes this country so great. Books allow people to gain wisdom and knowledge and creates a community of educated peers who work together to better society. In a sense, one may say that reading helps build the future.

But just because you can read, doesn't mean you can read and understand books effectively. In Mortimer Adler's "How to Mark a Book," Adler says that reading is a dynamic activity which involves the author having a conversation with the reader. Adler goes on to say that just because you have a lot of books, doesn't mean that you truly own those books (*How to Mark a Book*). To fully consume these books, you should take notes on them while reading. One of Adler's most inspiring phrase is "In the case of good books, the point is not to see how many of them you can get through, but rather how many can get through you—how many you can make your own." It is not about the quantity of books that you have read but rather the quality. Reading a 100 books on Dora

the Explorer doesn't come close to reading and understanding a single page from Hemingway's works.

Although the books that you read might be good, it wasn't always good in the beginning. Only through multiple revisions does a book become the best version it can be. In Anne Lamott's "Shitty First Drafts," Lamott states that to start writing, you must force yourself to write a first draft (Lamott, Anne). One of my favorite sentences in her essay is "One writer I know tells me that he sits down every morning and says to himself nicely, 'It's not like you don't have a choice, because you do -- you can either type, or kill yourself.'" This metaphor truly shows how difficult it is to write a good piece. Lamott says that "writing is not rapturous" and that first drafts are the hardest things to write but even good writers write bad first drafts.

Works Cited

(1902-2001), By Mortimer J. Adler. HOW TO MARK A BOOK (n.d.): n. pag. Web.

"Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury." NEA Big Read. NEA Big Read, n.d. Web. 04 Apr. 2017.

Lamott, Anne. Bird by Bird: Some Instructions on Writing and Life. Melbourne: Scribe, 2009. Print.