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Rhetoric 105

05 September 2016

For The Love of Writing

A wise man by the name of Dr. Romie once said “Hold the vision and trust the process.” Dr. Romie was referring to life. Everything is a process and literature and rhetoric are no exceptions. Literature is a progressive art. The development from a “Shitty First Draft” to something “wild” and beautiful is what makes writing fascinating. “Shitty Rough Draft”, “*How to Mark a Book*”, and the “*Fahrenheit 451*” discussion all talks about the process of literature, as well as the love for it. Whether it’s writing or reading the phases of “making it your own” is what drives these three writers.

In “*Shitty First Draft*” by Anne Lamott she opens up by stating every great writer begins with a shitty first draft, with the exception of one person. Lamott then goes on to explain that writers do not wake enthusiastic, nor confident. They create “Child’s drafts” in which they “let it all pour out.” This excerpt can be summed up by two sentences directly stated. Lamott says “Almost all good writing begins with terrible first efforts. You need to start somewhere.” Writing is a process. Writers do not automatically sit down and write masterpieces. They must go through a process of writing and writing to “channel whatever voices and visions come through and onto the page.” Writers must trust the process. They recognize that their best pieces bloomed from something that was premature. Once writers allow their minds to spill on the paper, they will discover something they wrote was beautiful.

Much like writing, reading is a progressive. Mortimer Adler explains this in “How to mark a book.” According to Adler, to correctly analyze and own a book you must mark it up. Similar to writing between the lines, Adler believes you should “write between the lines.” Marking a book is actively thinking. **It is a way of converting thoughts into physical notes.** Underlining, asterisks, etc are all ways to “intelligently” mark a book with thoughts and ideas. Adler states, “I want to persuade you to “write between the lines.” Unless you do, you are not likely to do the most efficient kind of reading.” This is the point he is trying to convey throughout this source. This method of writing exercises memory, thinking, and analysis skills **You cannot just read something and expect to absorb all the information.** It is when you mark a book that you truly recognize the value of its literature.

In the Ray Bradbury’s discussion of his book “*Fahrenheit 451*” he talks about his process of writing the book. He first discuss his stages of appreciating reading. Starting from the age of three, Bradbury fell in love with literature. As he matured he begin to love writing. Then Bradbury starts to vent about his actual process of writing “Fahrenheit 451.” He narrates the store of him getting his “office” in which he wrote the book. Bradbury created the book at a Library at UCLA surrounded by many students. After writing the first draft of “Fahrenheit 451” Bradbury allowed the characters to “talk” to him. He wildly let the characters talk directly to his pen making them vivid and passionate. Bradbury trusted the process of writing, therefore creating a beautiful book.

Anne Lamott, Mortimer Adler, and Ray Bradbury all held the vision and trusted the process. Their literature they create richly speaks because of their love and knowing to do so. They recognize that literature is not a one-step process, but an art that should be gradually completed. The art of reading and writing is beautiful when done right. Whether it’s writing a

“shitty first draft” or “marking” all over a book with ideas and analyzations, development is crucial to a well-developed piece of art