NORMAL WRITING

-The normal idea is that writing is an extension of who we are

-Or it’s coming from above

PROCESS

-I would like to suggest that really better writing is a matter of process

-James Clear on coming up with a better process

PROCESS COMPOSITION

-Process Composition, championed by legendary writers, coaches, and professors captures this idea that

REDUCTIISM

-Timothy Ferriss DiSSS writing protocol in the 4 hour chef best describes another aspect of the mechanism towards better change

-DiSSS talks about breaking a part the process into component parts.

-In fact this is where a lot of problems with writing come from - the idea that you have to do it all at once.

-If we were to break a part writing - it’s not just one task, it’s many small ones.

SCAMPING

-Coming up with ideas is one aspect - a counter comes from advertising, where creatives were put on corporate deadline with millions at stake

-Scamping is a method by which you can tap creativity rather than the old view of waiting for the Muse to get in touch with you

TORTURED CREATIVE

-This idea of the tortured creative seems to come from a certain place and time

-Quote article entitled Blocked by the New Yorker

STRUCTURE

-The other issue is structure - the bones of the essay.

-We were all taught outlining as children, but I feel a better method that interfaces better with scamping comes from a former editor at the Wall Street Journal.

-This is also advocated by people like Jack Hart in his book A Writer’s Coach

-The process is basically to come up with ideas, then tag each one with a family.

-You’re using your scamping to form the emergent order, rather than having an order and then brainstorming points.

-Then order the family categories and rearrange

-Then physically move the points within categories

-Then physically rearrange the points within each category

-Another place is documentaries that have to go from one place to the next

TRANSITIONS

-The next stage, the transitionns is described as the internal secondary narrative by shah jahani

-Again with process composition it’s more about categorizing what a transition is - I’ve identified only a few - about 10 different types of transitions

-A good place to go with this is stand up comics

-Do stand up comics talk about transitions?

LEDES AND KICKERS

-Beginnings and endings are other big problems, one even highly advanced journalists and writers have had problems with .

-Example, John McPhee problem with ending New Yorker article

-However, many of the process guys have solved it in the same way I solved transitions -

-Encyclopedia of Endings - Chip Scanlon and Don Murray

-Lexicon of Ledes - Jack Hart

FIRST DRAFTS

-With all the mechanics in play, the first draft now function is almost an afterthought. All the key ingredients are there in order with moving parts.

RESEARCH

-The next element is what I like to call research details.

-This is very different from the normal method, which focuses more on research.

-While I think research is often where you get to know what you’re saying, the problem is that it can end up confusing you if done for too long. Perfectionalism and completeinsm function to make it a step in which you get lost or from which you never emerge from.

-If after you’ve done initial research you know what you have to say - then get to writing and figuring out the structure and transitions

-Wholes can be clearly marked with TKTK the traditional journalistic method for mentioning that something is to come.

-Then fill in the holes - this helps limit the deep research because research now becomes highly targeted.

POLISH

-Lastly the polishing is a matter of repetition - evolution polishing is great - like with scamping you just write without the editor.

-With a synonym finder open in a computer tab, keep changing small elements without the editor, only bringing it online to just gut know if that word or fragment is correct.

-I’ve done this with difficult writing to great success.

-It’s almost like the monkey typing crazily is right - you can hit on amazing turns of phrases - if you use them together.

-The polish can also mean word choice in order to implant thematic elements like shah jahani

-Polish can also mean word choice - jack hart talks about this with lists of words

-Shah Jahani talks about it when he talks about hunting for common mistakes - passive voice is a big one for me. Or redundant phrasing

TIPS

-Jack Hart? Said that if there’s ever any point in which you are having difficulty writing one of these levels, it probably means that the preceding level was done badly.

-Adding additional information

TIPS - THE PERSONALITIES

-Another way to view it all is like with different personalities.

-The Editor, The Scamper Creative, The Analytic, The Magician (this could be like a tarot card visual)

TIPS - TOOLS

BEHAVIORAL ISSUES WITH OLD SCHOOL WRITING

-Isn’t it unusual that writing work seems to be different than other things?

-Practicing scamping - Write or Die or NaNoWriMo

-Synonym Finder

-Brainy Quotes

-List of Transitions, Ledes, and Endings

-Scrivener - you can layer drafts and easily move back and forth between them. You can also view split screens of different drafts. Also makes mechanical processes, like moving categories and moving around order of bullet points easier.

MINDLESS/STRUCTURE - MINDLESS/ TRANSITIONS - MINDLESS

-But the thing to remember is how mindless the structural element is.

-And how mindless the idea generation is - in fact it seems to fuel itself on NOT being so attentive.

-Taking the editor out on holiday is a big part of what causes forward momentum to continue uninterrupted

-Like a magician, the idea is that transitions are largely rote, mechanical. The audience should see it as magical - suddenly you are going from here to there.

-But as writers we often don’t like to think of it like that. And that’s problematic - because it preserves the idea that this is all a magical process not subject to our control and improvement.

--ADDENDUM - Diagnostic tool of mindlessness - do it while distracted to pinpoint faults - very much like Kelly Starrett’s idea of good form in lifting. Any stressor - time, reps, weight, reveals fault issues in form.

GENERAL BENEFITS

-Benefits include never stopping

-Also not having to necessarily focus deeply with each thing

-Ability to write anywhere

-More output

-More output also gives more opportunities to practice, rather than being cramped with little output

-Psychology is the biggest block to writing - Writer’s are crazy drug addicts and depressed out the ass -

-There’s a reason for that - No metrics for good writing. Basically any other type of learning has a metric by which we can improve.

-It also keeps the process separate from you as a person.