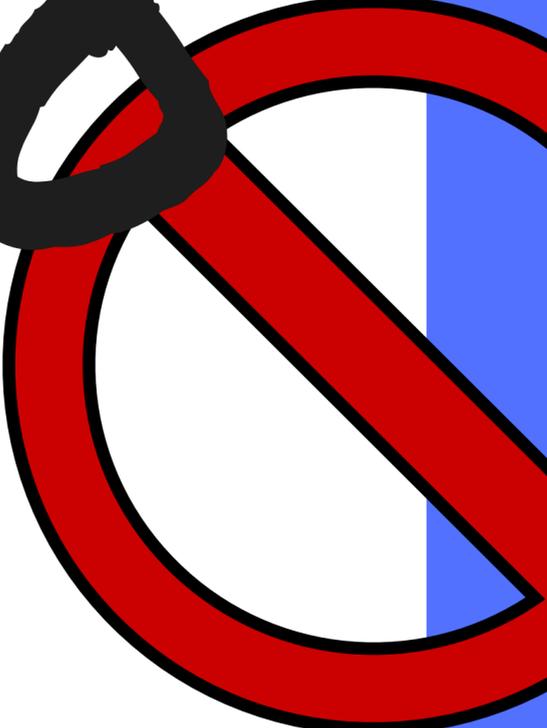
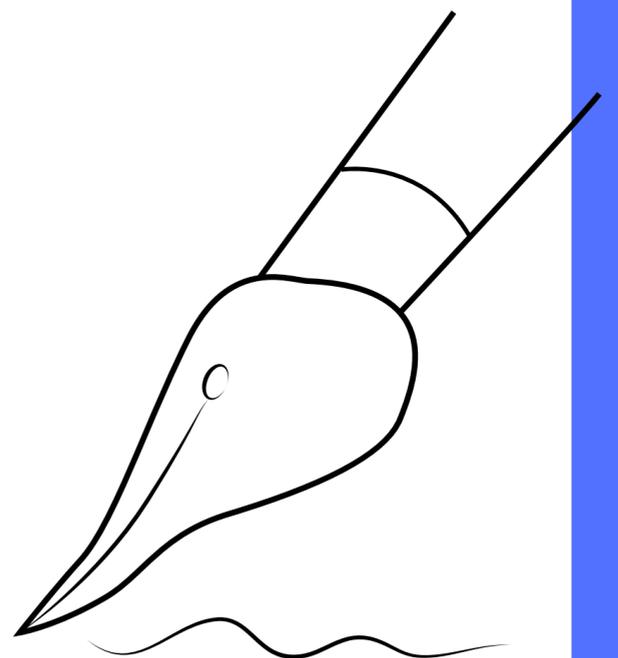


HOW TO NOT BE AN AUTHOR



**Book 1 of the
How to Not Do It
Series**

**In 2000 words
or less!**



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A Note from the Author

In some way, we all have burdens. Often-times the burdens we carry seem to come optimized for maximum trouble. Life issues become doubly hard because of those burdens.

If we're not careful, the burden can derail us and keep us from being happy and productive. It doesn't have to be something from the past that weighs us down, it can be anything; a present work situation, a relationship, something about where one lives...

I have come to think of these things as monsters, because at times it really can feel like you're battling monsters.

When I look back to see how my father so often acted, I have an example of what not to be and how not to act. He should not be my excuse, nothing should be my excuse. I believe it's the same for us all. Whatever the challenge, part of our purpose is overcoming things that could hinder each of us.

When it's too late to make up for lost time you can never be proud of excuses. I encourage

How to Not Be An Author
by
Robert Kimbrell

Deep in your soul, you feel it. You know you have a creative side. You also probably know that there is a difference between thinking creatively and actually being a creative person. If developed, to some extent, anybody can be creative. But actually converting that creative seed into something that exists? That is success!

In this short essay, when we say author, we are first considering those of you trying to write a book. Really, the subject matter can apply to anyone that is attempting to write anything of value. What you choose to write could be a poem, a blog article, a full-length novel-anything in between. At some point, you made a conscious decision to author something.

But like the tree that falls in the forest that no one is around to hear, perhaps creativity or ideas don't exist unless they result in an actual end-product. I mean, what is the alternative to making the creative seed a reality? Nothing. In writing, if nothing grows into a final work, it basically remains an idea. It is present in a vapor of time in the form of thoughts or notes

or drafts, and will gradually dissipate into a state of non-existence.

Like a crime, an idea must be proven. An idea must pass the smell test. Will the idea really work in the real world? Does the idea have holes? The author must ask if the idea answers a question, solves a problem, or can be of interest or entertaining to readers.

I know people that overflow with ideas, then they sit proudly, as if they accomplished something. Idea people idea, creative people create. I argue that being creative means one actually has to do something with the idea, or creativity isn't really present. I wonder how many good ideas have slipped into eternal oblivion because the creator—or team members—weren't motivated to implement it.

The biggest names in history are those who created and did something with their ideas. The founding fathers of the United States, Nikola Tesla, Jackie Robinson... a myriad of earth-shakers... went against the tide and created. Standing out, especially in today's sheepish culture, is not common.

Believing in an idea means one must act on that idea. I'd like to think that before Edison electrocuted Topsy there was an assistant or student yelling at him to stop. Some ideas are of course not so good.

It takes courage, willpower, tenacity and more to tend to that seed in order for it to develop. Until you stick with the potential your creativity contains and make something out of it, you won't realize the benefits. You may never feel what it's like to build, make—fulfill. The opposite of this results in being discouraged, depressed, stagnated, to name a few. Your brain will eventually learn to stop churning out the ideas altogether.

If this is you- if you don't ever want to write anything again, read on!

Good ~~Excuses~~ Reasons

So you have a great idea for a story. You sit down, set your fingers to the keys and type. Which of the following often happens to you:



A. You don't even get a word out.

You freeze, unable to get the wheels rolling.

B. You get several words on the page, maybe even get several sentences or paragraphs written. You lose interest or self-doubt creeps in, and you stop.

C. Something distracts you. It could be the TV, radio, the dog, the cat, a phone call; the stronger urge to do another thing...

D. Fill in the blank _____.

E. All the Above.

CONGRATULATIONS

Do you know how many people are focused, committed and driven to the point they are already accomplished? It seems to come so naturally for some, doesn't it? So if you are prone to freezing under pressure or are unable to focus for longer than five minutes, don't worry about it. Somehow, even if you don't fully apply yourself, you can still be an infamous author.

The world is overflowing with people who have done nothing, yet have had success literally fall into their lap. You can be one of them too!

You probably know that, regarding life expectancy in the U.S., men and women are living longer. According to a USA Today article in 2012, life expectancy rose a tiny bit to 78.8 years (78.7 years in 2011). That trend has continued since. Elsewhere, interesting details can be found that deserve a look, such as racial and ethnic differences. Are you wondering about the sexes? In 2012, life expectancy for females was 81.2; males 76.4.

The point? You have plenty of time to get things done. What good is a having a purpose if you stress yourself out by applying undue pressure? And above all, do not forget the countless things happening all around you. Those things all deserve your attention.



There is something to be said for the peace and happiness that can come about from fulfilling your purpose, but short bursts of emotional satisfaction is what you REALLY require.

Try this: spend time playing that game, or watching that can't-miss show. Forget being

But c'mon! You can't afford to miss anything that might be entertaining or new. True happiness can be found in doing superficial, meaningless things.

So yes, working on something of purpose can have a great effect. BUT! If you don't really want to be an author, that's different. It can take grueling hours in order to finish your writing project, and grinding through the days upon days... with no end or finished product in sight...torture.

Whipping about in the whims of the wind is totally acceptable when you don't want to fulfill your goals. Go with the flow...and live less than you are capable of living.

We only have 2000 words,
so let's get to the point.

→ If you thought you wanted to be a writer,
but don't have the dedication...

→ If you aren't concerned about leaving a
legacy...

→ If you aren't concerned with accomplishing
goals...

Read on!

What follows are ten things
successful authors do. By briefly looking at
these, we will be better able to apply what not
to do.

Pay special attention to The Rebuttal in
each point.

1. Great authors are disciplined, work hard, and write all the time.

"Would you have a great empire? Rule over yourself." -Publilius Syrus

The Rebuttal:

This is simply not true. You have a better way. In order to get to success you're going to take a different path. Remember, it may take a little longer to write that novel. That's alright, you have your entire life. So fit in the writing when you can and don't worry about what the professionals do.

2. Read a lot.

It is said that reading anything and everything, even genres you may not ordinarily read, can be a major help.

"Reading stocks the mind with more, "ingredients" with which to work.

Read a lot. Reading really helps. Read anything you can get your hands on."
-JK Rowling

The Rebuttal: False! Realistically, if you are lacking the proper time to write, how on earth will you have time to read?? The last thing you want to do is

3. Self-edit your final draft (before a professional editor/proofreader).

There are more or less two schools of thought regarding editing. There are some who just want to be able to say they have written a book. On some level or another these types do make some effort to cut down the mistakes, but eventually get tired or burn out, and just publish (self-publish) the book to "have it done."

Then there are others who value quality work. To these types, the product isn't finished until it is polished to be the best possible.

The Rebuttal:

You may ask, "Can't artists throw paint on a canvas and call it art?"

The answer: Yes!

If the reader is dismayed at improper grammar, spelling errors, inconsistent plot details e.t.c., it is their problem.

A writer should be able to let it flow naturally, and the reader should digest whatever they are given regardless of a few dots or mistakes. Even altering the final product to be more professional can alter the raw nature of the writer's work.

It is unrealistic to expect every single book to be edited. The reader should still be interested in less than professional works because the words are original, and therefore more organic.

The reader can develop the story on their own.

4. Your future is in your hands and your hands only.

The Rebuttal:

Believe the following things and it will be easier to not be an author:

• Either you are born with the talent, or you aren't.

• People are born into success.

• People don't reach the stars on their own, it takes a village.

• I am a victim of _____ and therefore unable.

5. See lessons and stories in everyday life.

This can help, especially if you suffer from writer's block. For those of you who are having a hard time getting going, or are looking for that unique angle to take on a scene, be observant. You may see a child acting strange, a man being overly discreet....these are things that may not seem closely related to your story but can offer a twist or even surprise for readers.

The Rebuttal:

Contrary to this nonsense, a real

author usually only finds their inspiration

6. Value what sets you apart.

In the writing world, your tone or way with which you write is called voice. Even supplied with the same story idea, no two authors will structure or tell a story the same way.

According to the successful, you have a unique personality and therefore a voice unique to you. Use it to be original in your writing.

People thirst for something different.

The Rebuttal:

7. Ideas are great, but eventually you have to do something with them.

The Rebuttal:

Train yourself to become an idea mill.
Actually writing your book is hard, right?
Instead of writing your book, teach yourself to feel accomplishment by producing ideas.
Produce as many ideas as you can,
and write them all down.

8. Write your passions.

By writing about your passions, you will be more committed to your writing schedule. An added bonus is that your passion may even reflect in your writing. Chances are your experiences are connected to the things you have a passion about, so you'll likely have lots to draw from.

The Rebuttal:

No, no, no. People don't care about your passions. Your passions will bore them.

The only way to write anything with any appeal is to write about something you know nothing about.

It can take research or you can just develop the story off the top of your head.

We have an imagination for a reason!

9. Be ambitious!

Challenge yourself. Get up early, work late, whatever it takes. Set a date and get that novel completed!

Refuse to listen to that negative voice in your head and go for it.

"Start writing, no matter what. The water does not flow until the faucet is turned on."

-Louis L'Amour

10.

Find ways to grow.

Read, go to museums, do/learn *something* different...

Activating new parts of the brain and experiencing exciting activities can contribute to your joy and willpower; hence your desire to succeed.

The Rebuttal:

What is it about people that always seek to learn or improve their life or outlook? Slaving day in and day out does not lead to happiness, and that is what every day should be about: happiness.

Last Word

That's pretty much it. I hope you now see how you can not be an author.

I'm tired.

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