

The Power of Writing

Howdie Mickoski

The power of writing is being lost. What do I mean by that.

Starting around 15 years ago the youtube platform began to take precedence as the main source of information. Video format took command. And in some cases, when people put long hours into crafting a documentary-like format, the videos did create a detailed examination of a subject.

But then came the podcast/discussion with a camera. That became the new focus. And I understand why people like to do that. You just turn on a camera and talk, or answer questions. That is much easier than writing a few pages of an article. For a few reasons. the first is that you can just ramble on for 45 minutes with no real plan or base of starting, and if you have some knowledge, eventually a few tidbits of information will shine through. But rarely does anything new come up when someone is talking constantly day after dsay (just like in real life). And since the average person is really not looking for detail and deep concepts, but really either entertainment, or a way to overcome personal boredom and loneliness, this fits their underlying need. When it comes to an interview, watching one or two of someone can be a great way of getting to a deeper understanding of them and their work. But after that, they will likely just be repeating themselves, so there is little reason to keep using time watching the same video over and over again. Perhaps after a year they might have something new to say and an interview now worth watching.

Then in the last year the proliferation of AI slop has magnified. In fact YT now pushes those videos on people's feed charts, and tends to ignore anything made fully by "people" themselves. This is not just in information, but music, historical segments, just about anything now. And sadly people are fine with this. They keep on doing what they are told to do, klick from one AI pet video, to an AI music video, to an AI historical travel video.

Then there is the soon-to-be lost art of writing. It is getting lost because quality writing requires two things, an investment of time, and competence in the subject being written. Since few want to invest time away from staring at a screen to really take the time to craft words, then go back to it in a day to look over what one originally drafted, and then rewrite it, means writing is ceasing. Then there is the requirement for competence, because if you write something, it is much easier for a reader to pause and really think about what has been read, even search out references to see if the writer actually is telling something close to truthful. From listening to talking, there is little time to examine what anyone has just said, as they have moved on to the next random talking point, often with no link between the two, and the chance to examine what was shared has been lost.

Both talking and writing involve the use of words, and yes in time on the journey even the use of words at all has to be looked at, because having any "words" means there is an absence of Silence. But that is a long way along. Until that point one can see the use of words via talking, is external, the inside is going outside, and is useful for simple pieces of communication "hand me that hammer please," "can I have a cappuccino?," "I like this city." Writing is meant to convey the internal to the writer themselves. As such they are first and foremost a clarification tool for them to get some understanding of what is going on within, and only then after that clarification is it ready to get presented externally to someone else, where one is going beyond

the simple "I like this city," to present why. And not just a ramble of not-contemplated concepts, but the writing itself was meant to be the contemplation of the subject matter, so that what comes out on the page is more refined and hopefully a more clear presentation.

For example when I write something on a subject, I tend to feel quite calm and satisfied when say the 2 hours is completed. But if I were to talk that out as a video or interview, I can feel tired, and second guessing the choice of words or analogies that if I were writing could have better fine tuned. Talking with one person on the same subject directly in person, is somewhere between the two states.

Competence though is pretty much gone in our world. Idiocracy is getting very close to a reality. Look into any organization, business, or government department. Would you classify the leaders of any of these "competent?" At anything? In fact, this has been done on purpose, to make sure that those who have intelligence and competence, get so frustrated with the system, that they want no part of it. Because if you ever had the real competent people rising up the ranks to the leadership positions, things would be getting transformed in a hurry, and everything would start to function better and smoother. That is not what those in power want, they want the feeling nothing can ever change, because there is no one there smart enough to have real valuable ideas of how make a change. Just like video slop, the same organizational slop goes on year after year, decade after decade. And now that AI is running much of all these organizations, how well do you think all this is going to go?

Then again a staggering number of people today use AI for every single part of their day, being unable to know what to eat for breakfast if the power goes out and they can't access Chat gpt. How easy it will soon be to get all of these people to have their brains hooked in directly with their ai god?

Just so you know, this article you read has taken me 2 days and about 3 hours of time to put together. Again you can see why no one wants to put in this kind of work, sadly because if the majority tried, they would be unable. Imagine that. Just 40 years ago, the average person with something to share could have put it down on paper, even describe it in letters (remember how family members used to send long detailed "what we have been up to updates" in Christmas letters). I am not sure the average person to script together a paragraph today...well unless some AI platform did it for them.

Ah, Brave New World.

So take the time to keep writing, not to share with anyone, just for yourself. Journal a bit every day. Remember that, journaling. Something almost everyone did 50 or 60 years ago. Writing just for yourself, but having to take thoughts, experiences, and ideas and get them "out of your head" and onto paper. That helps keep the brain active, cognitive and critical thinking going, and the ability to stay alert and clear. Just because the rest of the world has already dropped into the quicksand is no reason you have to as well.

Choose to keep all avenues of your inner power...