

Dear Mr. Zinsser,

I write to you today after having finished reading your book *On Writing Well*. I first would like to say that your book has made me think more, as well even challenge, some of my previous thoughts about writing and some of its specific components. The key points I took away were to cut the clutter and simplify as much as possible, write for yourself, and to always refine and rewrite as much as possible.

You mentioned a great deal of methods and interesting ideas that were not unfamiliar to me, however yet challenged me to reconsider and grow as an individual writer. For example, you explained how “*you are writing for yourself*,” and to not “*try to visualize the great mass audience*.” That I should not worry myself simply on audience reception, as the enjoyment of writing the piece will bring about a much greater result. This is something that has crossed my mind before, however it did not stand out in front of me until you mentioned it in this book, as I had not really fully understood the meaning of that beforehand. With great certainty, I can say that I really understand what that means now.

Specifically I found your notion on simplicity to stand out the most, which had the greatest impact on me compared to everything else. You state how “*clutter is the American disease of writing*,” and how “*we are a society of strangling in unnecessary words, circular constructions, pompous rills and meaningless jargon*.” I have always been a mixed bag when it comes to the length of my content; sometimes taking the simple approach, or even sometimes dragging a sentence on longer than I really should be. However, when you mentioned this, which to me served as the foundation for the rest of the book, it really showed me what goes into writing. Particularly the work that goes into trying to make a sentence as simple as possible, so that it has the author’s intended effect on the audience. That stood out to me the most.

The ideas you mentioned in your book will help serve me to take a different approach when I read other authors’ writing. Instead of simply reading one’s writing and taking in what is being said, I will now also analyze what went into that specific writing, and what is meant to be taken away from it. I as well will try to do a much better job of recognizing my own writing, and its

strengths and weaknesses. For you state *"few people realize how badly they write."* My writing analysis skills, both towards myself and others, will definitely be at a much higher level.

As a writer, my hope is to be able to express my thoughts on whatever the specific subject matter may be, and for it to serve meaning and purpose. I as well hope to better my connotation skills, understand that I am writing for myself, and as well understand that writing is something that gets better over time the more I do it. It is just like playing a sport; the more you practice it, the better you get at it. Thank you for your time, and I thank you for your insight into how I can become a much better writer.

Sincerely,

Brady Kondek