**TWR - episode 86**

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You're listening to think right revised episode 86. Hey there, and welcome to think right revised a podcast that offers a peek behind the scenes of productive writing life. I'm your host. Dr. Katie Linder. In this episode. I want to share about the collaborative revision strategy that I did with two of my co-authors for our recent co-authored book because it worked so well and I have to admit I was a little bit nervous about how we were going to handle all the reviewer comments as you know, if you've written a book before and gotten reviewer comments, you get like multiple pages of single-spaced comments broken down my chapter and there's always a lot to process and to do and I always find this kind of overwhelming just as a.

Single author working on a book and so I was like, how is this going to function when I have to other people and we're kind of trying to negotiate these changes, but the process that we worked through went so well and it was basically because of the leadership of one of my co-authors and it was awesome.

So I wanted to describe it here in case any of you are working in a collaborative revision fashion and you need to do this. So the first thing that happened was we all got the reviews from our editor and we had a chance to process them by ourselves. And this was really helpful that we weren't kind of looking at them for the first time with each other and we gave each other a couple weeks maybe even up to like three weeks to look at this because of our schedules being so busy.

We didn't have a chance to go and meet with each other right away. So we had a chance to kind of process the feedback alone and it was interesting because we had two reviewers who gave us feedback that was. All super helpful, but some of it was contradictory. So it was useful to kind of be able to process it and to think on an individual level.

What did we agree with and maybe what do we not agree with to add to that our editor also sent us a very detailed email of his comments as well, which was also quite lengthy. So we were actually processing kind of three different feedback versions from our to reviewers and the editor as well. So we decided to jump on a call.

We booked an hour and a half with each other and it was a zoom call. So we were videoconferencing and basically what we decided to do. Was one of my co-authors took the lead in merging all of the comments together into one master document and this was helpful because of the structure that our publisher asks for reviewer comments in it is broken down by chapter.

So they have an option of giving kind of overall feedback and they answer some specific questions about the book as a whole but then they go chapter by chapter and offer their comments and feedback and often times. They will give specific page numbers of things that need to be worked on. So I had one co-author who took this document these three different versions of our feedback and merged it all into one.

So we kind of could all look at it together and then we basically went through this document together over this video call. He shared his screen so that we could all look at the document together. And what we did was go through kind of some of the major things first. So for example, one of the reviewers, Asked us if we would consider basically completely restructuring the book around a framework that we introduced in the.

And we talked about it and decided that was probably not a good direction to go based on our goals for the book and what we were trying to do and there were a couple other huge things like that. That would have required a lot of structural revision. And so we tackled those big things first so that we could kind of have a sense of where we wanted to go and what we would all agree on in terms of the big question.

And then we looked at the chapter-by-chapter breakdowns. And as we went along we made a judgment call about who would be able to kind of respond to a particular comment or revision and often times. It was like one person who drafted that chapter who could take on the entire, you know revisions for that chapter, but sometimes there were other people who needed to weigh in on something and so we made notes in this word document about who is going to tackle what.

And then the brilliant thing that my co-author did who was kind of leading this discussion is he copied and pasted the specific comments that were made especially when they were made about a specific chapter or page number and he put them in as a comment in our most recent draft document of the book so that when we went in and started to kind of do our edits at an individual level we could go to the places where we knew we had to tackle and he had already embedded the.

Of what we would need to look at and revise so sometimes it was a question or sometimes it was just a couple sentences saying have you thought about this thing or that thing and we knew we would need to kind of think about it a little bit more and so that comment got embedded directly in the draft the other thing that he did that was really brilliant as we were going through this conversation.

For little stuff that we could just fix in the moment. He fixed in the moment. Like we just went into the document and made the change right then so we could just cross it off our list. So little typos or things that were just like wording was a little bit confusing. We just went in and made those changes right away.

So this ended Tate this ended up taking us the entire process about an hour and 45 minutes. So a little shy of two hours for us to be on this video called together going through all the comments. But by the end of the call, we knew what was left to do and who was doing what and we decided to do kind of a round-robin structure, which is what we had done toward the late stages of drafting the book when we were making some final edits where one person was going to take it first and they were going to kind of get a.

Far as they could in terms of their revisions that had been assigned to them and then they would pass it on to person number two, which happens to be me. I have it right now sitting sitting on my to-do list to work through my revisions and then I would pass it on to person number three and that person would kind of go through except all the changes make their additional changes and we might have like one more read through before we submit it back to our editor.

Now this is probably something that if I had thought ahead of time. Oh, we should you know merge all the things and go through them one by one on this call. I don't know that I would have done that. I would have thought it would have taken too much time. But at the same time, I'm not sure if there was a better way because when I think about how I would have done this by myself, that is totally the approach that I would have taken.

I would have merged these things and I would have gone through them item-by-item and started to think about, you know, do I agree with this comment? Do I not agree? Do I want to make this change or not? And that's basically what we did as a group. It was also I think a really helpful way of getting us all back into the manuscript at the same time because we have been away from it for several months.

We finished the draft of this. Almost a year ago now and it had gone out for review in the summer. So it has been a really long time since we've been actually kind of actively drafting it and working on it and this allowed us to kind of get back in because the reviewers had really good questions for us that kind of brought us back to the core goals of what we wanted to do with this particular book.

So I wanted to share this kind of collaborative revision process because yes, it took some time and I have to say I'm so thankful for the coauthors that I have because I think we all get along very well in terms of talking through these kinds of changes and revisions. I think this kind of process might be more difficult if you had collaborators that you were not getting along with very well and you were kind of struggling to see eye to eye, but we all seem to see eye-to-eye pretty well.

I think this is why we chose to work together in the first place, but it surprised me just how well this process went. I pleasantly surprised me and I wanted to make sure to share it because if anyone else kind of finds themselves in the situation, I think that one tendency is to just give all of this to one person first and kind of have them make sense of it and make judgment calls, but it actually was really helpful to do it all together and to kind of see what everyone else thought about.

Comments and to really get the perspectives of my co-authors about how they felt about the the reviewers overall take on the book. So this is something that happened a couple of weeks back. I have gotten the revisions from met my first co-author like I mentioned and I will be tackling these soon alongside the red line revisions for the edited collection.

I'm working on so it is a season of book editing for sure and hope to have both these projects off my plate before the end of 2018. So hopefully this collaborative strategy for revision was interesting and useful. Of course, I would love to hear if you are doing something similar or different that's working really well for you when you're revising and collaboration.

So you can always email me at contacted Katie Leonard artwork to let me know more you can tweet to me at Katie double underscore lender or connect with me on Instagram @ KD underscore lender. Tell me all about your experience. Thanks so much for listening to this episode. Thanks for listening to this episode of think right revised show notes and a transcript for this episode can be found at Katie lender dot work / podcasts think right revised is part of the radical self-trust podcast Channel a collection of content dedicated to helping you seek self-knowledge nurture your superpowers playfully experiment live your core values with intention practice loving kindness towards yourself and others and settle into your life's purpose learn more about the rst channel.

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