**TWR - episode 103**

This episode of think right revised is brought to you by prolific my new virtual community for academic writers. When you join the prolific Community, you'll get immediate access to exclusive events and conversations about academic writing and publication that you won't find anywhere else. You'll also find a community of thoughtful academic writers who want to learn from one another's experience helpful and practical resources curated into a private Library accessible only to prolific members accountability structures to help you accomplish.

Daily weekly quarterly and annual publication goals and writing tasks a space to ask questions share challenges and gather tips and suggestions that will help you write more and better and consistent posts that will inspire you spark thought-provoking conversations and offer expert perspectives and advice on academic writing and publication each and every day learn more about prolific and sign up for your free two week trial at prolific dot mn/dot KO.

You're listening to think right revised episode 103. 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 a kind of game. I guess you could call it that I played with some of my writing groups in this past round.

And how am I writing groups work is often times people will bring specific challenges or questions or ideas or topics that they want to talk about with the group in any given week but especially towards the middle of a term or after we've been working together for a while because these go, you know about three months time there is inevitably a time where the writing group members will show up and nobody really has anything that they want to talk about.

And they don't have a topic and so I always have a couple things in my back pocket that I want to bring up with the group and make sure that we can talk around a particular topic or idea. And there's one in particular that I thought would be useful to share on an episode and that is some creative ways to think about your writing because I think sometimes we can get into a little bit of like tunnel vision with a particular project that we're working on whether that's a book or an article or a grant or something along those lines.

And we need to kind of just get ourselves into a different form of energy around it. We need to kind of wake up to it a little bit more and we need to just be able to think about it from some different angles so that we can Infuse it with what it needs to really be successful. So what I have done is put together are five ways that I think are kind of useful to look at a writing project and I want to share those with you on this episode.

So the first one is to think about when it comes to. Article or when it comes to your book or whatever writing project you're working on to what degree do you feel like they're our main characters within the argument you're making so for example, it may be that there are different stakeholder groups that are being represented in your writing or it may be that you're writing about particular characters, like whether they're historical figures or maybe you're writing a literary analysis on some actual characters or you're just thinking about like your audience as a character and what they're going to want to know.

But try to identify kind of the main characters are the main stakeholders that are involved in this particular writing project can be really useful and I think in particular it can be useful because it can help you. Think about what would it take to serve each of those stakeholder groups or characters?

What would give of like a fully-fledged picture to them that they would be able to find helpful that it would help them to answer their question that they have about the particular Topic at hand. And this can also just get you thinking creatively if there aren't main characters that are kind of obvious to you.

Do you have to kind of think around well, what would count as a character in this if I was to kind of think from that angle? So it just kind of takes your brain and twist it into a little bit of a different way of thinking about it. The next creative way to think about your writing is to consider if you have ideas to share through this piece.

What would be like the top three if everybody walked away from reading this thing that you've written and they only had three things that they were walking away with what would those three things be and this allows you to first of all prioritize the messaging of what you're trying to argue. But also you can then take those top three ideas and go back through your paper or your outline.

See where they're being represented and it may be that those ideas are so important to you that you have just kind of assumed that there are embedded in the piece of writing, but maybe they're not maybe you've kind of taken a logic leap and you are seeing it but your reader might not necessarily be seeing it.

So it's important to remind yourself. What are the top three things that you really want people to walk away with this also works really well for things like key notes or other kinds of presentations that you're giving as well. The third idea I have to kind of think about your writing in a different way is to think about how you would describe your ideas in a very concise way for example in a tweet and I'm thinking about like old-style tweets which were a hundred and twenty characters or less now, there are about double that but if you had to really distill down the main thesis or idea of what you're trying to say, how could you do that in a really short?

Period of words and this is something that I think is also really helped if you think about like conference abstracts or Journal abstracts where you're limited to like 50 words and you have to give the core ideas of what you're working on in a particular amount of words. I actually find those to be a really interesting Challenge and puzzle because depending on what you're writing you might have to share the methodology the results in a very short period of time and so I just really helps me to kind of distill things down into the core elements of what it is that I think are really important about a particular project.

So consider describing in a tweet of a hundred twenty characters will last or even an abstract of 50 words or less what it is that you're really trying to say. The fourth creative way to think about your writing is to think about if what you're writing was a song what genre of music would it be?

And you might actually have like a very specific song that comes to mind that you think not just a genre but like an artist and an actual song and if you do have that go with it, it can be useful. I think to actually play this kind of music when you're working on the writing or when you're trying to get into the writing but it gives the writing that you're working on a kind of mood it gives it a kind of emotion as you could imagine.

It's very different if the piece of writing that you are working on. I feel like it's like jazz music and maybe someone else thinks their writing is like rock music. It gives it a different kind of feel in a different kind of emotion when you're kind of starting to dig into it and work on it again.

So this was something that was actually I think one of the more fun things for the writing group members to think about was how they could associate what they were writing with a piece of music. And then the last creative way that I think is useful when you're trying to come at your writing from a different angle is to write a Haiku and this is where you have a meter of five seven and five syllables and this is kind of connected to how do you describe your idea in a really concise way, but it's a really helpful tool.

I think if again you're trying to distill things down to the Core Essence and haikus are just kind of fun. They're a form of word play and it's. A way to kind of back yourself out of the seriousness of academic writing and do something that feels a little bit more playful. So I think if you want to turn your writing into a poem it could be a haiku.

It could be another kind of poetry but the idea of just kind of getting back to playing with language to thinking about the core elements of what you think is really important can be a way to kind of jumpstart and boost your writing energy. So these are the kinds of things I like to do in the writing group.

I think it's fun to step back to think about our writing from a different angle to remember that we can be creative. We can be playful when it comes to writing and also that sometimes we need to do this kind of thing to really Infuse our writing with more energy and to bring us to a place where we're looking forward to working on a writing project, especially if it's been something that we've been working on for a while.

So if you use one of these five creative ways to think about your writing, I would love to hear about it. You can always email me a contact to Katie Linder dot work. You can tweet to me at Katie double underscore lender, or you can connect with me on Instagram @ KD underscore lender. And if you have other creative ways that you like to think about your writing to think about it from a different angle.

I would love to hear that as well. Thanks so much for listening. Thanks for listening to this episode of thank 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 at Katie Leonard at work / podcast. If you found this episode helpful, please also consider rating and or reviewing the show in iTunes. Thanks for listening.