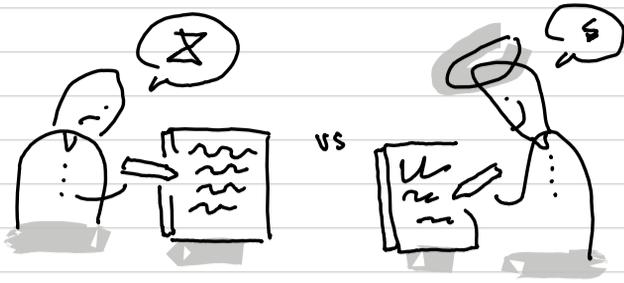


Why accepting to have ugly notes helps to write by hand?

In this short article I'm sharing how accepting to write in ugly hand writing has helped me to write more by hand.



In the first few days after getting my refurbished Remarkable II tablet I went full hand mode.

As someone who shares a lot of his writing I found even nice to be able to share the handwritten notes directly. When I concentrate a bit I have a very readable hand writing. But writing by hand so that others could really read my hand writing I made my life a bit harder. To write like this I had to write a bit slower, and couldn't write in bumpy train rides. So I started to use more the keyboard to write on my Remarkable tablet.

But a few weeks later I wrote again more fully by hand. What changed?

I stopped to want to use the hand written notes as something that has to be easily read by others.

So I could write much faster.

I still add to my articles a copy of the original notes just for the curious minds who want to see how the sausage is made. This is a transparency I had for years. First by letting people see the many drafts that it took to write a principle for a book or by showing at the end of an article how and with which tools I wrote it while walking and recording audio.

So not publishing directly the hand written note but keeping it as a behind-the-scenes elements reduced the time and pressure I had when writing by hand.

One thing I know for sure is that the way I write will continue to evolve with time. In fact the way I write is often a good indicator of the life period and mental state I'm in.

For the next few weeks I'll continue to write mostly by hand because it has a beautiful calming quality and it sets a nice example for my son.

And when it comes to typing a longer or more technical piece, like a grading feedback, I think I'll stick with the keyboard attached to the tablet.

Backstage of this article

This article was written and illustrated by hand on a refurbished Remarkable II tablet. You can download the original note below if you are curious.