**TWR - episode 84**

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You're listening to think right revised episode 84. 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. Hey there on this episode. I'm offering another update on how things are going with my nanowrimo project, but I also want to say Happy Thanksgiving to folks who are located in the US and who are celebrating the Thanksgiving holiday this weekend.

It is the perfect time to recharge in the midst of a busy fall term, and I am definitely going to be doing some of that myself, which I'll talk about a little bit later on this episode, but I wanted to First give a quick update about how things are going with the novel progress and let me tell you.

It's not a lot. I have added a total of 372 words to the novel and I was able to squeeze in even that amount by getting up kind of early in the morning one morning and I had other work I was trying to do and I finished it all and was able to turn my attention to the. But my writing this week since my last update I've actually done a lot of other kinds of writing and it just hasn't allowed for time to get to the novel.

So I was going to talk a little bit about the other things that I've done that I've kind of gotten in the way of this, but also I wanted to talk to given our Thanksgiving time timeliness of this episode about kind of what I'm grateful for with writing. So some of the things that I've been working on instead of the novel last.

Like I had a conference that took most of the week and I think I mentioned that on last week's episode and I had several meetings with people actually on their book proposals and their writing strategy and that was something that I was able to kind of embed throughout the conference. And also I gave a conference session on disseminating scholarship.

So my mind was definitely on writing throughout the conference and that conference went throughout the end of the weekend, so I didn't get home until around dinner time, maybe 7:00 p.m. On Sunday. And then I got right up the next day and went into work. So this week for the few days that I've had before.

I'm recording this episode. I've worked on a few different things related to my writing with Oregon State eCampus. And this is the writing that takes up most of my daytime work and so it's kind of difficult at the end of the day to come home and write more because a lot of my creative muscles have kind of been tired throughout the day working with various eCampus projects.

So the first thing that happened this week is I continue to collect data for an interview project that I'm working on and this is something where we're interviewing over 30 people three different times for one hour interviews. So it's pretty time consuming. So I was able to collect some additional data for that project.

Act I also worked with a colleague on finishing a paper draft that we wanted to route to several people within our organization and this is a paper writing on augmented reality and we're hoping to get it submitted to peer review by the end of the year. So that was something that took up sometime this week.

There's another project that we've also asked for feedback on from various folks and we worked on editing that Project based on some external feedback that we've received so that also happened this week and then earlier this week. I also really enjoyed working on book edits for my next book on alternative academic careers that I'm writing with two colleagues and we jumped on a phone call together and spent about an hour and 45 minutes going through.

Reviewer comments we had blind reviewer comments. And then also our editor had offered some comments and as always the comments were so helpful and so useful. And first I was a little bit nervous about how we were going to tackle this but what a my co-writers took all the comments and kind of merge them into a master.

And then we literally just went through comment by comment chapter-by-chapter. He'd broken It Out by chapter into the kind of bullet points of what they said we should do and then if it was something we agreed on that we should do he would copy it and embed it on the page that they were referring to and so it was just kind of an inserted comment on that page and then we decided on a schedule once all of that was done and we did inserted all the comments and make judgment calls on everything we wanted to do.

We decided on a round-robin schedule where one person is going to tackle kind of the things that were assigned to them. And then they'll pass it on to the next person and then we'll pass it on to the next person. So working with this kind of co-author situation with this book has been a dream. I'm definitely going to talk about it and or blog about it at some point because it's just been so amazing to work with these two people and in part it's because of the two people I'm working with but the system's we've set up our just working so well.

And it's making the process just feel easy in some ways, which is wonderful. So all of those projects got worked on in the past, you know five to seven days and that's part of why I didn't get to the novel and I was thinking last night and I also I almost did an episode on is there any good excuse not to write because I think that this is kind of what this sounds like is here's all my excuses for why I didn't get to the novel but instead I thought about what makes me so thankful about writing and that is that you can.

He's come back to it. It's always waiting for you. And for some people that feels kind of ominous like oh, it's always waiting for you. It's always like looking over your shoulder saying when are you coming back to me? But instead I like to think of it like an old friend and so at last week's conference.

I met up with a friend from graduate school. And this is a friend that I now see about once a year because we run into each other at a conference. But before that we got several years without connecting and this is a very good friend in grad school and we just kind of went our separate ways. We had our separate lives, but every time we come back together and I'm sure you have a friend like this.

It's like we saw each other the day before, you know, we pick up right where we left off and we trust each other. We tell each other all kinds of things about our lives and updates about how things are going and it's like that with writing for me. That you know, you can walk away from something and say, you know, I really need to put my cognitive and Creative Energy Elsewhere for right now, but I will be back and eventually I will pick this up and be able to move it forward.

So right now this is kind of how I feel about the novel and it's a little unfortunate because I enjoy the novel writing and I think that it takes a lot of time and Creative Energy. I feel like this is something I always forget with novel writing is that I don't feel like it fits in the nooks and crannies as well as some other kinds of activities.

Writing because with novel writing you really are kind of had meeting to be creative and using a lot of your cognitive and mental energy to really think about where you want things to go and it's very generative like all the time. I'm sure when you get to the editing stage, it's not as mentally taxing, but at this stage when I'm really trying to produce content, it is a little bit more difficult and I always seem to forget that.

So for now my update is 375 words. I'm still in that deficit that I reported on last time. I think I am maybe five to six hundred words behind where I was because I removed that outline from the document. So I'm hoping to play a little bit of ketchup this Thanksgiving weekend, but the other thing I wanted to briefly chat about was my plans for this weekend because we have four days.

I am taking Thursday and Friday off of work and then we have Saturday and Sunday for the normal weekend, and I certainly have something. On my to do list that I want to get done for some client work that I have but I would love to carve out some time for writing and particularly for this novel project.

The other thing that's kind of pulling at me though is I definitely feel the need to get some rest particularly coming off this last Conference of the season. And not being able to take really time off work earlier this week to kind of recover from that. I'm definitely going to be spending part of this weekend.

Just reading watching movies hanging out. We don't really celebrate traditional Thanksgiving in the way that a lot of people do by cooking all day. So it's just kind of another. Nice break in the middle of the term that I can take. So I will be doing some writing this weekend, but I'm also going to be focusing on definitely getting some rest so that I go into the rest of what I need to get done in 2018 feeling strong.

And so if any of you out there are kind of thinking about this and you're not sure how to spend this weekend, I would definitely encourage you to think about what do you feel like you. And I physically feel like I need some rest, so I'm looking forward to taking some naps getting some down time and hopefully fiddling around with the novel a little bit next week.

I'm going to offer you a final update on how things are going with that and I'm really looking forward to reporting on my final word count of what I was able to add to the novel right now. It's a little over three thousand words. So we'll see how far I can get in the next week or so. Thanks so much for checking in again.

Happy Thanksgiving if you happen to be. Dang it and I want to say one more thing, which is I am so thankful for all of you for following along with this writing Journey for sending in your questions for offering your support and for building this community of academic writers through think right revised.

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