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about 775 words

CLINICAL CRITICAL CHUNKS

By Michael Straessle

Clinical critical chunks, card-carrying treacherously cordoned, call it what you like, but in simple terms (not so simple to deal with) it is still incomprehensible writer's block! If you've been a writer for very long you have experienced this profundity connected to writing. But, what does a writer do when faced with such a trapestry (my word: trapped behind the wall-hangings)? I have read and heard many different people who present writer's block as

par for the course! Why make such a big deal about it? From my experience in the writing industry, I have come to the conclusion that life's obstacles are not much different from what proficient writers experience in their own "private" world of words and passion which tend to overcome them from time to time. Thus, I offer a few steps about what I use to climb up, jump over, dig underneath, or tunnel through to overcome a simple case of writer's block.

- ✓ After oozing off into the ozone for what seems like an eternity, I finally realize if I don't write something soon I will more than likely do something stupid like drink too much coffee at midnight...so I write...scribble...bubble...whatever

- ✓ Step two in this process is to NOT edit what you scribble. Rather, keep doing it until you strike upon something that stands out from the rest. For example: someone stole my life today, but it wasn't a someone as much as it was a something maybe it was mind or paradigm or a huge boulder constantly blocking my way to clarity of thought but it is to no avail I can't make heads or tails of anything that is running through my head right now.....(and on and on)...

- ✓ Normally, it doesn't take long before I find solace in the fact that I have written something...and in that realization alone I feel like a Navy Seal in a black wetsuit at night who has crept up on the enemy without his knowledge...I fooled him...ha...I wrote something! This means I'm not so blocked as I thought.

- ✓ From this truth flows confidence that you are who you think you are. The trick is to remember what Walter Brennan used to say, "It ain't braggin' if its fact!" and pull out your six-gun pen and write...even if you write how much this obstacle is trying to make you quit.

- ✓ The last step to this "little ole me" process of overcoming the feeling that I can't write (despite all the good work I've put out to date) is to take a break; (just a few minutes) a cup of coffee, a shot of whisky, a cup of warm milk; then come back and read what you wrote.

- ✓ Oops, I said the previous thought was the last step, but you absolutely must do this after reading what you just finished...Laugh out loud!

I wonder if we are guilty of reading too much into writer's block. Of course, it's not me whom I have to convince that pure talent overcomes writer's block, it's always someone else. Personally, I never knew it was such a deep, ominous obstacle to overcome. After reading about it, though, I realized there were a whole lot of folks who have run into the critical chunks that seem to stop them in the process of writing as if someone put out a detour sign and from there they just got lost. Take heart, my fellow rhetors, for there is a light at the end of the tunnel. The only difficulty that stands between us and the end of that tunnel is not the bum on the street, but it is our interpretation of what we are experiencing at the time.

I have learned that everything we encounter is filtered through a paradigm that we were very meticulous in building. If this is true (and my experience says it is), then as writers we should be able to make smooth paradigm shifts due simply to the varying topics about which we write. Maybe it is the trapestry of trying to constantly write on the same subject at all times. So, when your mind goes blank when searching for the words to write the same thing in a different way, change the subject! Write something else because not writing at all is more devastating! It's like Kurt Vonnegut says: "Who is more to

be pitied, a writer bound and gagged by policemen or one living in perfect freedom who has nothing more to say?"

End.

Works Cited

Vonnegut, Kurt. Brainy Quote. 2007. Accessed site on 19 April 2007 <
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