

Why does passion matter?

Without passion in what you are writing – you are by no means justified to tell anyone else's story in your own words.

AKA. If you don't care about their story as much as you care about your own – don't write it. You are failing the subject and mitigating the value of information they gave up, often hesitantly.

PASSION IN A STORY VS NO PASSION

AKA the writer cares – it's obvious

- Concretes
- Focus
- Adequate / creative sources
- Solid interview
- Takes on challenging edits and critique



When you show interest - so do they

Not everyone wants to spend their time revealing their story to you. They will give more up about themselves when you are interested

Take time

Listen

Revise, rewrite, revise, rewrite.

No writer is too good for their subject so throw any pretentiousness out the door now – it's laughable – their story is worth all of the practices above.

This comes in ^ when you have an odd subject for a story - don't make them feel odd



Concretes

- listened and observed carefully
- Brings a story to life
- Reader doesn't relate to "feeling stressed during a test" but might relate to "scratching my temples as I stare at the scantron"
- People don't feel for the kid that dropped his ice cream people feel for the kid who dropped his single Jamoca Almond Fudge scoop
- how a reader makes a connection to the story

Concretes are the result of a strong interview



Concrete development

I like food

She can't stand dogs

He drinks at the bar



Concretes

I like food

She is terrified of dogs.

He drinks at the bar

I like hamburgers

The thought of dogs makes her hands sweat.

He sips on Bourbon at the bar.



Concretes

I like food

She's scared of dogs

He drinks at the bar

I like hamburgers .

The thought of dogs makes her hands sweat.

He drinks bourbon at the bar

I like BRGR's Juicy Lucy.

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He sips on Bourbon at Till's dimly lit bar.

The thought of anything from German shepherds or even Shihtzus made her hands sweat

What's a solid interview?

BAD interviewing

- List of questions
- Quickly runs through everything
- Interviews only in school or class
- Interviews over text - this is just a no all around
- Looks at two things, list of questions and subjects face

GOOD interviewing

- Knowing background prior to interview
- Taking list of bullets - subjects to cover
- Starts by not asking interview questions
- HAVE A CONVERSATION LIGHTEN UP
- Being genuinely curious
- Observing!!!! It's where the gold nuggets come from

EDITS

- Anyone who resolves edits without changing it (when it should be changed) should not be on staff.
 - You should strive for excellence and our staff is comprised of such different and talented individuals this shouldn't even be a thought.
- If you are confused – ask
- Why do we edit?
 - TO MAKE THINGS BETTER . YOU SHOULD WANT “HARD” EDITS
 - EDITORS - YOU SHOULD WANT TO MAKE STORIES BETTER
 - A WRITER'S IMPROVEMENT IS AN EDITORS CONGRATS

A change in this will stop these presentations

The janitors and late-shifters come and go with a nod. The ones who know him say, "Good night, John."

And then they are gone.

An empty building. A deserted parking lot. The long night ahead. John doesn't mind. There is comfort in the darkness of downtown Tampa.

He spent 41 years as a mortician in New Jersey before he moved to Florida to be near family. He has embalmed bodies, directed funerals, consoled grieving families.

The people who rush past him, hurrying home, don't realize this. Nor do they realize he saw combat in the Korean War. Or that his wife walked out on him decades ago, leaving him to raise two sons.

They don't know that the best days of his week are the ones he spends with a 2-year-old, brown-haired, blue-eyed girl named Avery - his only grandchild.

She likes to feed the ducks, so they feed the ducks. She likes flowers, so they talk flowers. They take walks, long walks, and look at ants.

The other night, he found 87 cents while patrolling the parking lot. He took it to her, because he's teaching her to count.

John J. Brauss is a security guard, 73 years old. The pay isn't great. The hours are odd. The shift is lonesome. But he wears a smile, night after night.

And for those who can't figure out why, here's one theory: After so many years of dealing with death, it's nice to spend his daylight hours with a little girl so full of life.

He's awake all night, dreaming of the day.

Good night, John.

What happens when you care?

A story goes from being about a janitor's job to a piece about humanity and simplicity.

When you read think:

What did that piece do well?

Do you feel like you know John?

How could that be so good and yet so short?