



Lifelong Learning

Elizabeth Donald

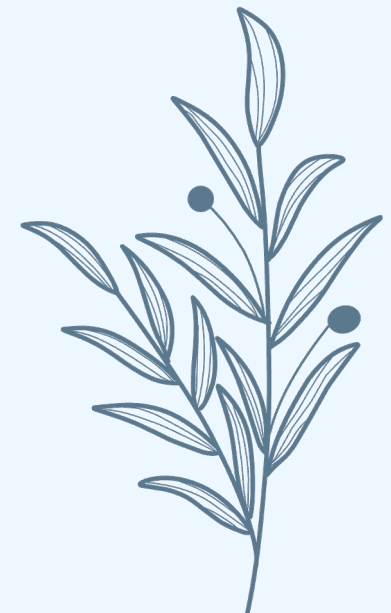
Overview

- ✦ Growth mindset
- ✦ Doing it on your own
- ✦ Autobiography
- ✦ Doing it with others
- ✦ Research
- ✦ SLPL
- ✦ Learning as
writers
- ✦ Back to school
- ✦ Conclusion



Growth Mindset

- What is your WHY?
- Embrace curiosity in the world around you
- Exploring ideas beyond your current expertise
- Everything you read and learn
- Accept that you don't know everything.... yet.





Education should be a lifelong process, the formal period serving as a foundation on which life's structure may rest and rise.

— *Robert H. Jackson* —

AZ QUOTES

Annoying autobiographical pause



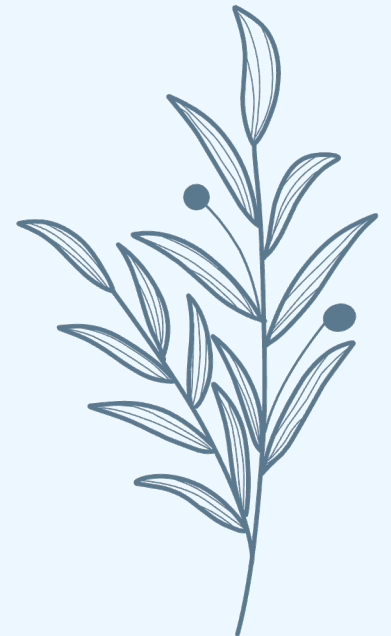
Daughter of educators

Journalism and education

The big leap

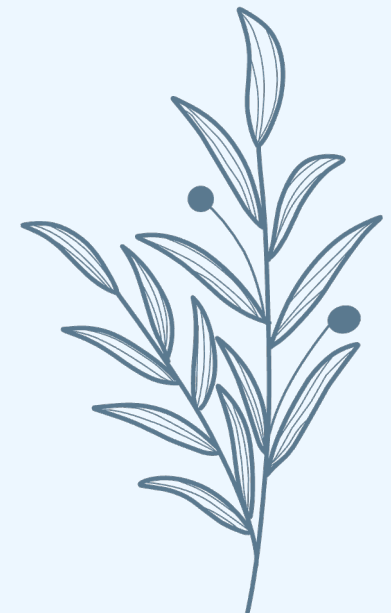
The value they do not (necessarily) see

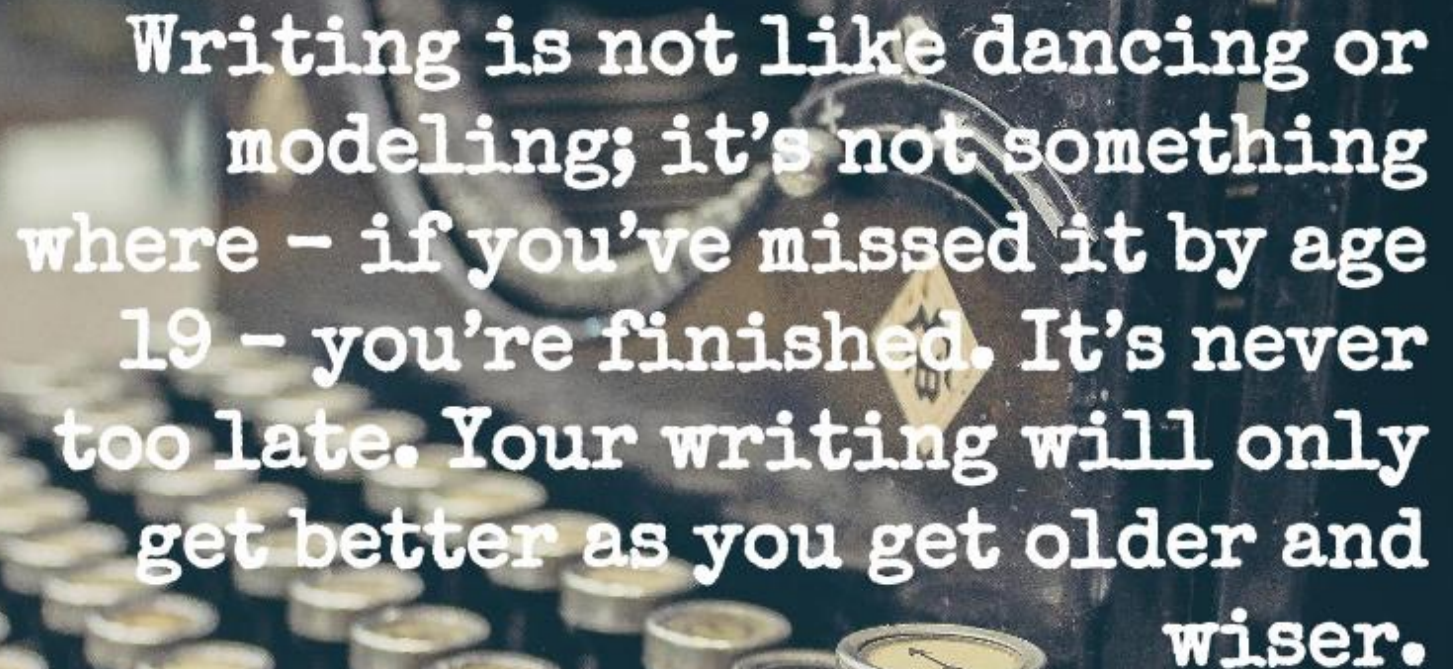
The best students



Actual research!

“Building a lifelong-learning habit provides fertile soil within which creative ideas and innovative solutions grow. However, the true beauty of these creations comes from sharing them with others.”





Writing is not like dancing or modeling; it's not something where - if you've missed it by age 19 - you're finished. It's never too late. Your writing will only get better as you get older and wiser.

- Elizabeth Gilbert

Learning as writers

- Trying something new as experiment
- The things we understand when we open our eyes
- Empathy as a requirement for writing



"Fiction gives us empathy: it puts us inside the minds of other people, gives us the gifts of seeing the world through their eyes. Fiction is a lie that tells us true things, over and over." -

Neil Gaiman



The Bookish Elf

WWW.BOOKISHELF.COM

Doing it on your own



Books! (They still exist.)
Online learning platforms/Masterclass
Paid online education programs
Seminars and presentations (like this!)
Podcasts



Mastering skills



Software and technical training
Graphic design
Business/nonprofit help
Research techniques
Audience analysis



Doing it with other humans

Continuing education programs at university

Writers' groups and other hobby groups

Conferences/conventions

Retreats



The capacity to learn
is a gift; The
ability to learn is a
skill; The
willingness to learn
is a choice.

Brian Herbert

meetville.com

St. Louis Public Library

- Brainfuse/JobNow
- CreativeBug
- Gale Courses
- Learning Express Library
- LinkedIn Learning (Lynda)
- Mango Languages
- NYT Cooking



Should you go back to school?

Pros:

Maturity level

The most well-rounded education

Credits for your resume

Mentorship and connections



Cons:

The most expensive option (unless...)

Extremely high pressure

Will those credits help you in your goals?



There's a difference between writing for a living and writing for life. If you write for a living, you make enormous compromises.... If you write for life, you'll work hard; you'll do what's honest, not what pays

— *Toni Morrison* —

AZ QUOTES

Conclusion

- Go back to the beginning: What's your why?
- Don't be afraid to try something new
- The money will work itself out.. with help
- Ask the questions

Elizabeth Donald
edonald@donaldmedia.com
www.donaldmedia.com



Thank
You



Citations

- Bal, P Matthijs, and Martijn Veltkamp. “How does fiction reading influence empathy? An experimental investigation on the role of emotional transportation.” *PloSone* vol. 8,1 (2013): e55341.
doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0055341
- Castleberry, Ashley et al. “Lifelong learning inspires the creative art of academic writing.” *Currents in Pharmacy Teaching and Learning*, vol. 11,8 (2019), pp. 757-759. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cptl.2019.04.002>.
- Coleman, John. “Lifelong Learning Is Good for Your Health, Your Wallet, and Your Social Life.” *Harvard Business Review*, 27 Aug. 2021, hbr.org/2017/02/lifelong-learning-is-good-for-your-health-your-wallet-and-your-social-life.
- Schmidt, Megan. “How Reading Fiction Increases Empathy and Encourages Understanding.” *Discover Magazine*, Discover Magazine, 2 Sept. 2020, www.discovermagazine.com/mind/how-reading-fiction-increases-empathy-and-encourages-understanding.

