

Professional Resources

Write What Matters: For Yourself, For Others

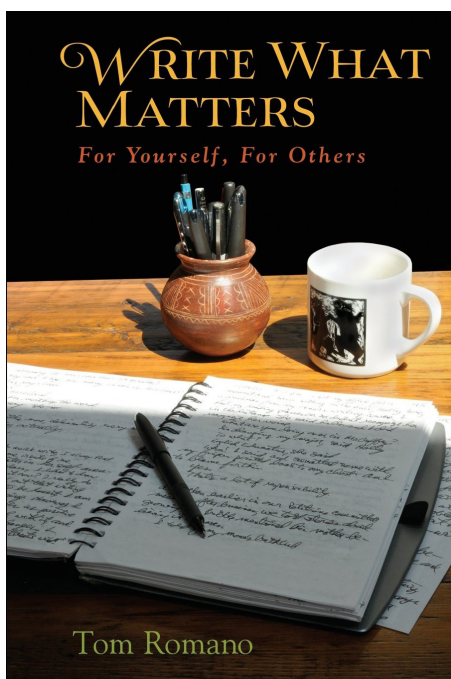
by Tom Romano
Tom Romano, 2015
ISBN 069251693X

A guide for all, exploring the techniques, processes and joys found in a writer's life.

Tom Romano sees writing as fun, but not frivolous fun. He's discovered it's more like the fun found in a "deep massage". It heals, reveals and leaves you satisfied. He revels in words, the writing process and teaching. *Write What Matters* is an ode to the work he loves.

Romano takes you through all stages of the writing process, from the initial "gush" of a first draft to the necessary step of reading your writing aloud to hear "if the words on the page translate into a rhythmic spoken voice." He provides prompts to help you explore your own or your students' competence with techniques like parallel structures, metaphors and leads; an exploration of Winston Weathers' Grammar B. Truly reveals how to Break the Rules in Style. What student doesn't want to do that? Techniques are exemplified with Tom's, or his students writing so you can see the pop, realism, and rhythm that can draw in your readers.

However, there is more to writing than technique. There is process too. Where do you write? How do you collect ideas? Do you draw? Do you use the microphone app on your phone? Who are your mentors? Finally, and most importantly (with four chapters dedicated to it), how do you revise? The words of poet Billy Collins are used to illustrate the importance of this step: "My students think revision is



cleaning up after the party. They have that wrong. Revision is the party." Again precise techniques are introduced so writers can work on ways to return to our work, drawing out and expanding on everything. There is also a story within the story of this book. When Tom Romano was a student, a teacher dismissed him as a writer because he didn't publish. Although he has now been published many times in different formats, he couldn't find a publisher for this book. After support from friends, colleagues and authors, he self-published. *Write What Matters* is a gift to all who care about writing and the teaching of it. Tom Romano's love for the process of writing and his inspirational message to all of us is consistent. We can all write, reflect on what matters to us and use techniques to draw in and inspire others. Whether

or not we publish, the process will help us grow.

The Doodle Revolution: Unlock the Power to Think Differently

by Sunni Brown
Portfolio/Penguin, 2014
ISBN 9781591845881

Learn the power of the doodle and how it can unleash creativity, analysis and deeper thought in yourself and your students, especially for those who feel they can't draw.

In the age of infographics Sunni Brown recognized we don't necessarily teach visual literacy. We view drawing as an art form, not a gateway to thinking. Her book, *The Doodle Revolution: Unlock the Power to Think Differently*, provides readers with practical explanations and practice spaces to overcome their fears and explore the precepts of doodling, allowing us to recognize the doodler she claims is in all of us.

After rejecting negative definitions, she defines doodling as the ability "to make spontaneous marks...to help yourself think." There are many arguments provided to demonstrate how doodling supports thinking. Much of what we want for our students, it seems, can be attained through doodling. If we want our students to retain information, if we want them to process information, if we want them to be creative and thoughtful, we should have them join Sunni Brown's Doodle Revolution.

Although we might not think of students doodling during lessons as productive, "doodlers retain 29% more information than non-doodlers." Once we recognize the process info-doodlers use to get the