

Reading Comments for Silvia, 2007, by Hongtao Hao

This book offered a lot more insights than I expected. It gave me advice not only on writing articles (and possibly books) but also on daily lives. First of all, it reminds me of the importance and the power of HABITS. The best way to achieve a goal is to first set a goal and then ALLOCT a period of time every day to achieving this goal. The book talks about writing articles or books. For me, the goal of studying statistics can also benefit hugely from this advice. I used to think that I need to find a big chunk of time to study statistics. This idea was hovering in my mind for a whole year. However, I never find THAT chunk of time. What I should do is not to wait for that chunk of time to come to me itself, nor starting reading statistics book right now and continue trying to find the chunk of time. Instead, I need to schedule a certain period of time in my every daily life to studying statistics and doing the research I always want to do. I'll never get that chunk of time if I wait. I need to get closer to that dream day by day. Just as the book says, three hours per day is enough to be a prolific writer. "find the time".

Also, I learned from the book that the best way of self-control is to avoid the environment where self-control is needed. Just as everyone, I will waste time on the Internet or social media. This author's advice sounds very genuine. If you cannot control yourself, just simply avoid that temptation. When writing, just chose the Internet access and turn off the phone.

I realized the importance of sticking to the scheduled writing time for academic professionals when I came to know that the author will decline the request to meet others during his writing time. I can FEEL the power of sticking to a habit from this piece of information.

Also, the message that you don't need to wait for everything to be perfect to start writing resonates with me greatly. I was just like the people whom the reading mentioned. I was waiting for a perfect desk, a perfect computer screen, a printer, or a perfectly quiet environment until I can be dedicated to writing. It stuck me that what the author have in terms of material is so simple and he still can produce so much work.

Another point that I find interesting and useful is that we should not wait for the inspiration. When I want to write something, I should start writing right away rather than waiting for the inspiration. In fact, just as what is mentioned in the book, inspiration comes when you write regularly. If I can stick to my scheduled writing time, inspiration will come to me automatically.

Last but not least, the message that books are more powerful than journal articles to promote personal experiences or even knowledge makes me interested in writing a book of my own.