The Secret to Daily Writing

Writing on Your Phone

WRITING

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TODAY
TO MAKE YOUR DREAM COME TRUE?

DeAnn Ogden Huff

ATFHA

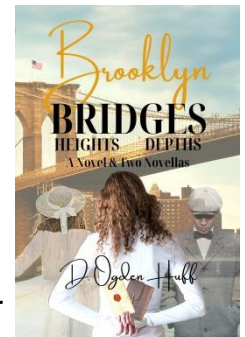Wife, Mom, Grandma

Babysitter

Office Manager

Volunteer

Tax Accountant

I'm too busy to write!

Writer

But...

- Writing is my STRESS RELIEF.

- And I NEED stress relief.

- Despite the chaos...

My Secret to Daily Writing:

- Writing on my phone.

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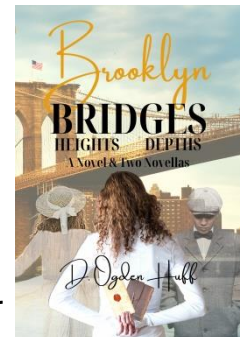
Writer

My Secret to Daily Writing:

- Writing on my phone.

- Why write on your phone?

  ❖ Accessibility
  ❖ Efficiency
  ❖ Capabilities
  ❖ Possibilities
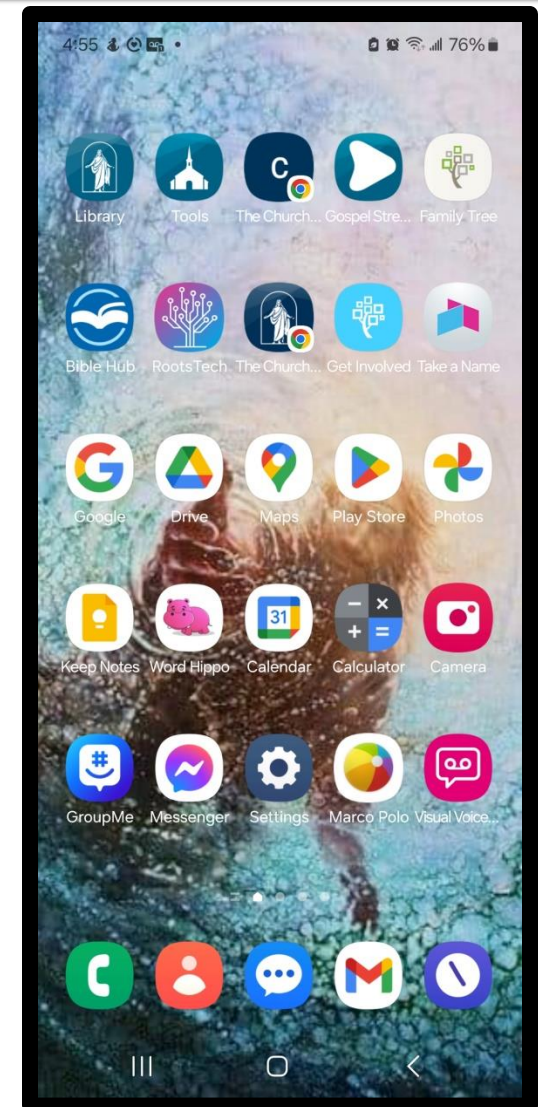
Accessibility

- According to Pew Research Center:
  https://www.pewresearch.org/internet/fact-sheet/mobile/#Smartphone%20Dependency%20Over%20Time

  - The vast majority of Americans – 97% – now own a cellphone of some kind. Nine-in-ten own a smartphone….

  - Today, 15% of U.S. adults are "smartphone-only" internet users – meaning they own a smartphone, but do not have home broadband service.

Efficiency

- Using our phones we can take advantage of snippets of time.

On Dec 6, 2021, (Twitter Web App) someone posted this: I remember hearing that John Scalzi will either write for four hours, or one thousand words per day. I don't even think he could be called a full time writer if he only works half a day or less.

John Scalzi responded:
If it makes these folks feel better to think I'm a part-time writer, fine. In which case I'm a part-time writer who doesn't have to have another job. That's actually pretty cool.

Then, Neil Gaiman added:

I wrote *Coraline* at 50 words a night.
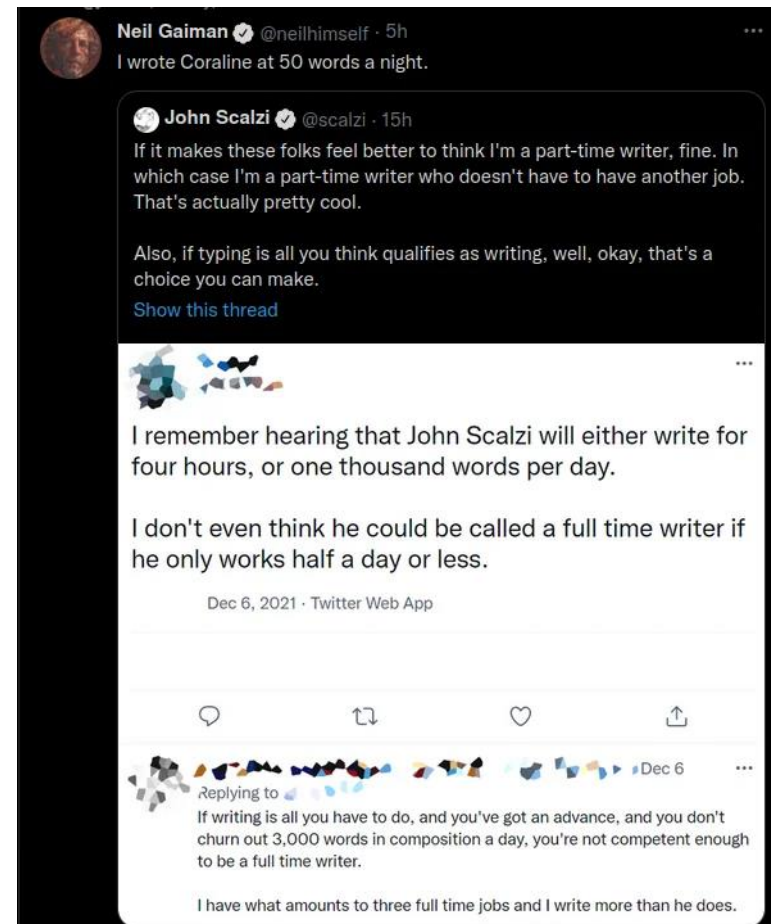
Efficiency

- Coraline is about 30k words. At 50 words a night, it took Neil 1.64 years to finish.

- Coraline, which was ranked No. 82 on the Guardian's list of the 100 best books of the 21st century, sold at least 1 million copies worldwide. The movie grossed $124 million by the end of its run in theaters.

- Neil Gaiman's Coraline doll fetched $72,000 at auction. Just the doll.

Efficiency

- **"I wrote Coraline at 50 words a night."** Neil Gaiman

- Snippets of time have value.

EFFICIENCY

Because Time is Money

VERY DEMOTIVATIONAL .com

8 Rules for Writing Books

1. Write 50 words.
   That's a paragraph.

2. Write 400 words.
   That's a page.

3. Write 300 pages.
   That's a manuscript.

4. Write every day.
   That's a habit.

5. Edit and rewrite.
   That's how you get better.

6. Spread your writing for people to comment. That's called feedback.

7. Don't worry about rejection or publication. That's a writer.

8. When not writing, read.
   Read from writers better than you.
   Read and perceive.

Capabilities

- Predictive Text

- Speech-to-Text

- Collaboration

Capabilities

- Predictive Text

  - ❖ "Predictive text is an input technology that facilitates typing on a device by **suggesting words** the user may wish to insert in a text field. Predictions are based on the **context** of other words in the message and the **first letters typed**. The user simply taps on a word instead of typing it out…. Predictive text can significantly speed up the input process.

  - ❖ Predictive text uses machine learning to **curate a glossary of words and phrases that a user often types**. The predictive text feature then ranks these commonly used words and phrases to **guess when they will be used again**. https://www.techtarget.com/whatis/definition/predictive-text
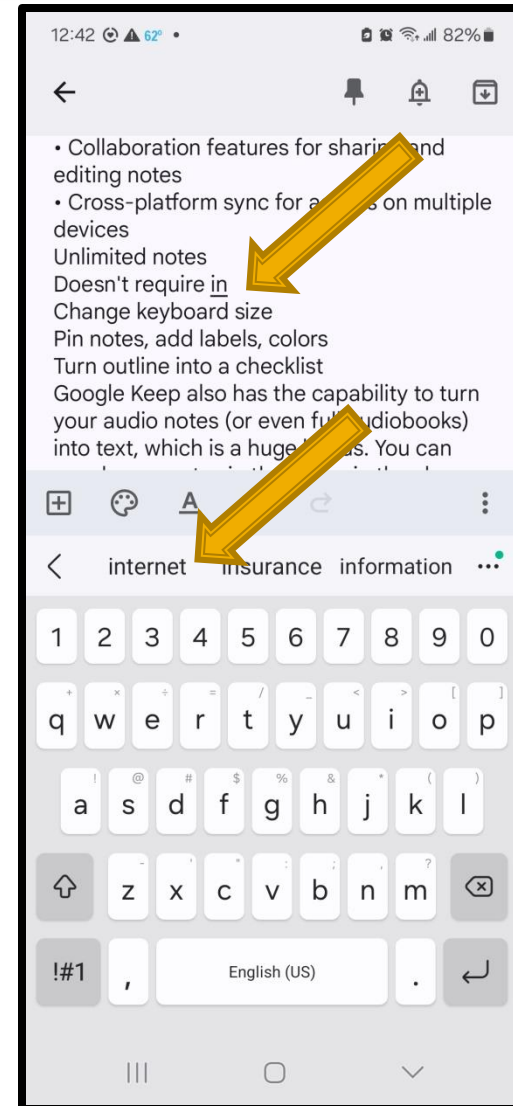
Capabilities

- Predictive Text

  - **Pros**
    - App learns from me the more I write
    - Time saving - Usually only need to type a few letters
    - More than one choice presented

  - **Cons**
    - Over-reliance - I don't want my writing to be predictable, so I might need to choose a different word.
    - Fat Finger Syndrome

Capabilities

- Speech-to-Text
  - Speech-to-Text is the ability of an app to translate audio content into written words.
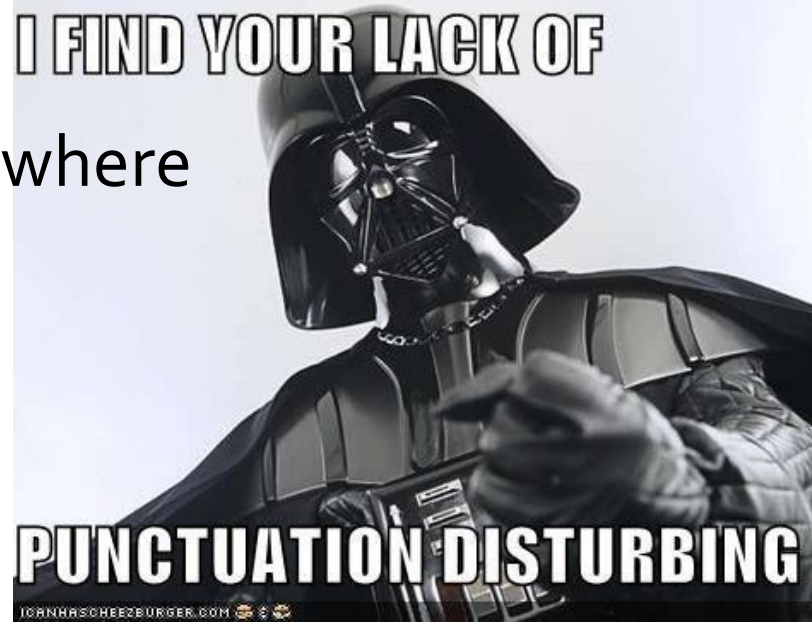
Capabilities

- Speech-to-Text

❖ Pros

  ❖ App learns from me the more I speak

  ❖ Time saving – Speaking is faster than typing

❖ Cons

  ❖ Can't speak out loud everywhere

  ❖ Lack of Accuracy

  ❖ Editing time

Capabilities

- Collaboration
  - Collaboration is working with someone else to produce or create something.
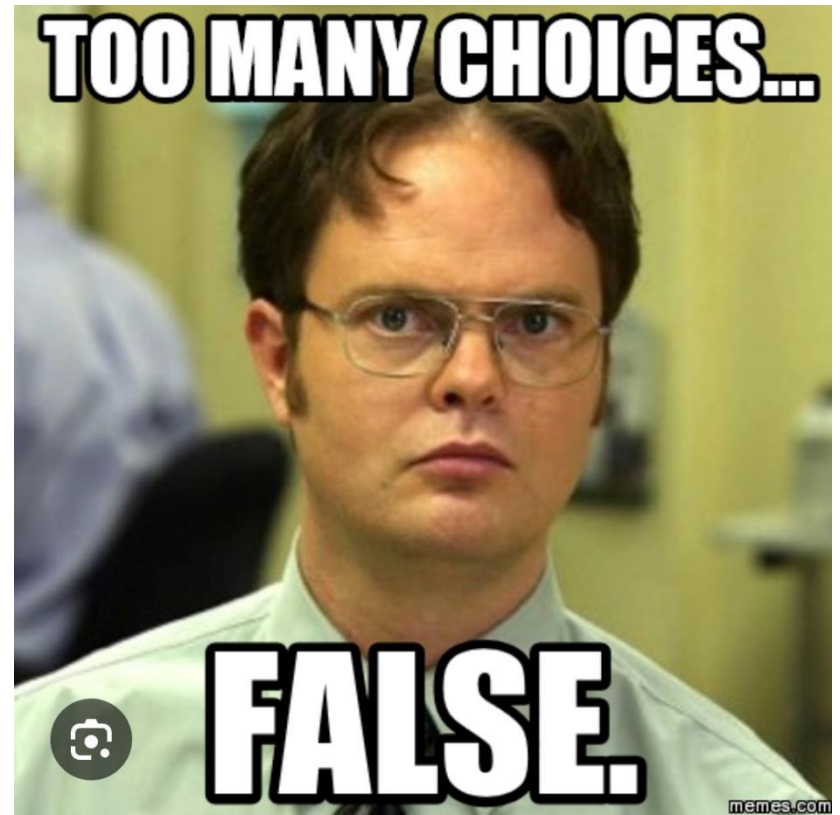
Capabilities

- Collaboration
  - Examples – Co-authors, beta-readers, cheerleaders, ARC team, chapters
  - ❖ Pros
    - ❖ We all need help
    - ❖ We all need moral support
  - ❖ Cons
    - ❖ Not all collaboration is helpful

Possibilities

Many free and paid writing apps:

- Google Keep
- Google Docs
- Living Writer
- Novelist
- Evernote
- Campfire
- Writer Journal
- Scrivener

Possibilities

Other writing tools apps:

- Word Hippo (thesaurus)
- Google Maps and Earth
- Family Tree
- Pinterest
- Music
- Plottr
- GrubHub☺

My Process
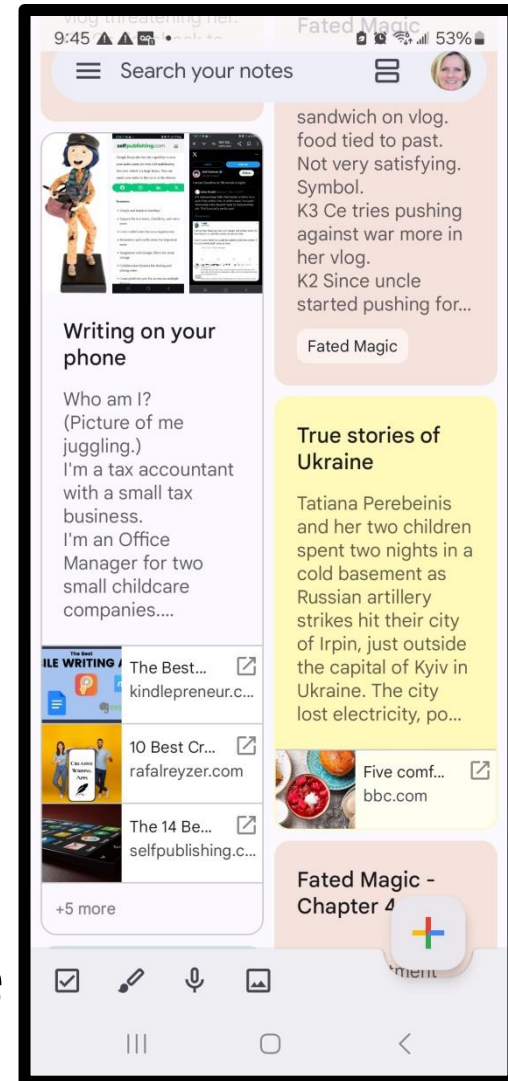

- **Google Keep for Drafting**

- **Google Docs for Editing**

- **Word for Publishing**

My Process

- Google Keep for Drafting
  - FREE
  - Simple and intuitive interface
  - Support for text notes, checklists, and voice notes
  - Color-coded notes, labels, and pins for easy organization
  - Integration with Google Drive for cloud storage
  - Collaboration features for sharing and editing notes
 - Cross-platform sync for access on multiple devices

My Process

- Google Keep for Drafting
  - Unlimited number of notes
  - Doesn't require internet to write
  - Ability to change keyboard size
  - Pin notes, add labels, colors
  - Turn outline into a checklist
  - Limited text editing
  - Google Keep also has the capability to turn your audio notes (or even full audiobooks) into text, which is a huge bonus. You can speak your notes in the car or on a walk.

My Process

- Google Keep for Drafting
  - Save images to note
  - Save URLs for websites
  - Images and audio stored in Google Keep do not count against your Google storage limit. Images are limited to 10MB each, and text notes are limited to 19,999 characters. With average 5 letter words, that's a 4000 word chapter.
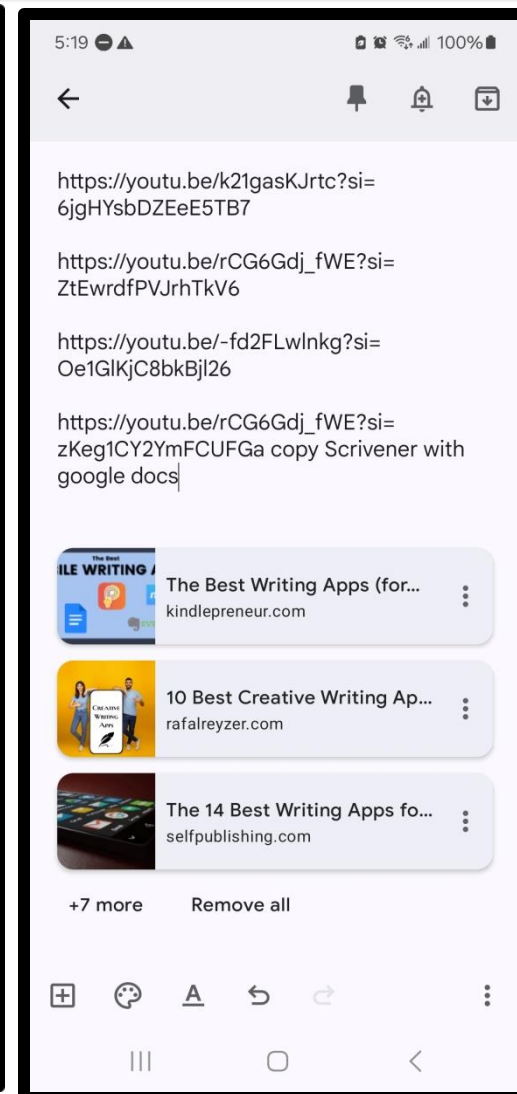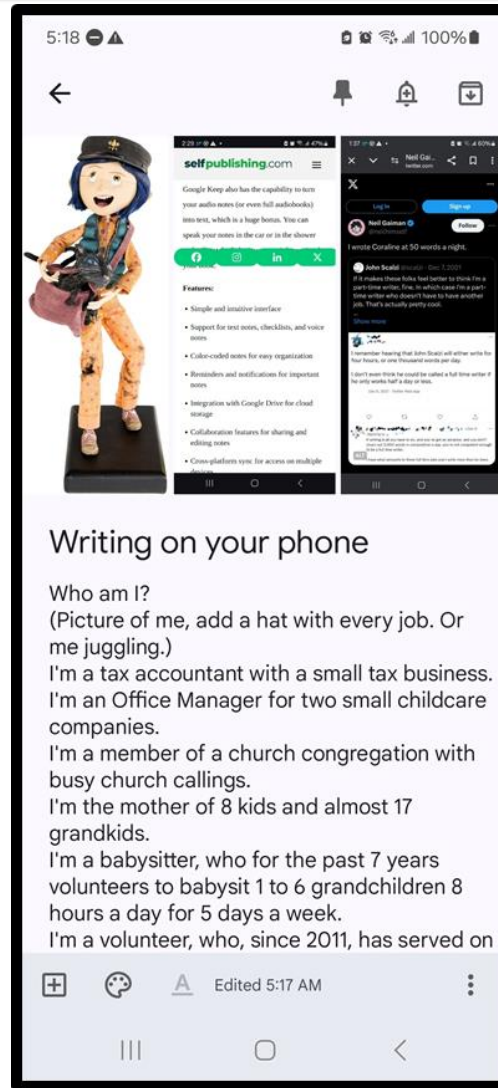
My Process

- Google Doc for Compiling and Collaborating
  - Free
  - Compatible
  - Rich text editing
  - Import/Export
  - Auto save (I save to Word often)
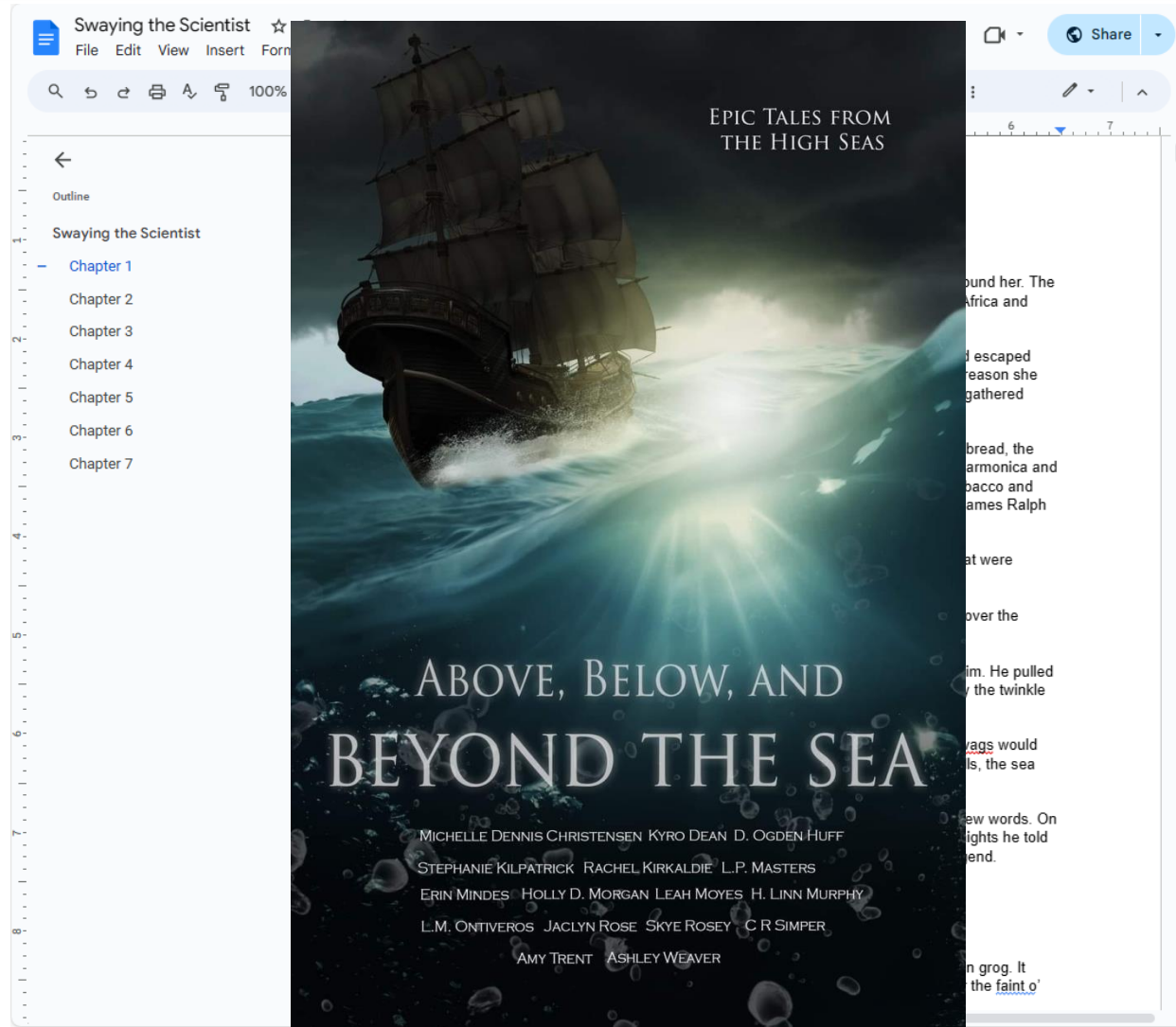
My Process

- Google Doc for Compiling and Collaborating
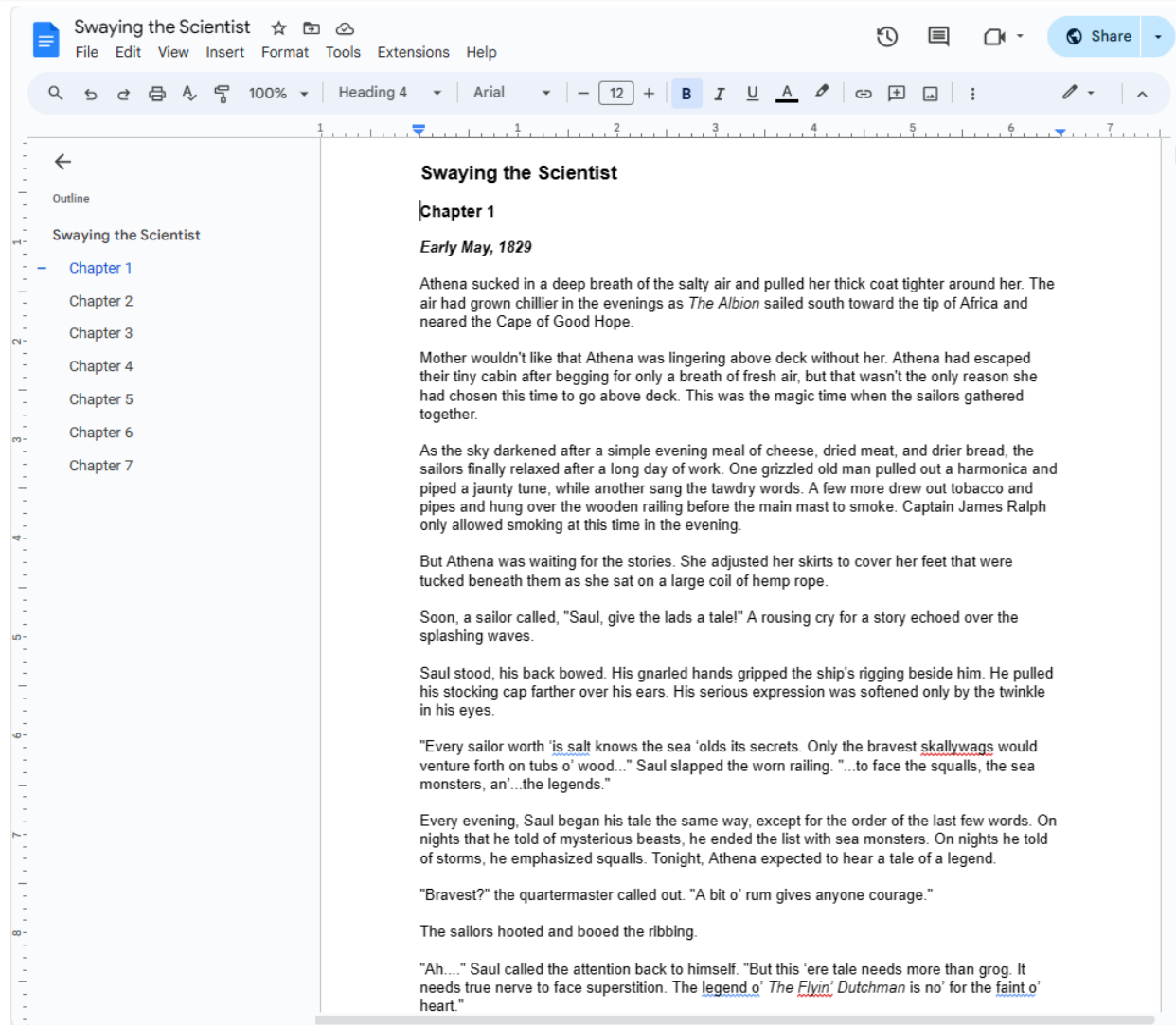 - Collaborating with beta readers
  - Can be set up to copy Scrivener, but free https://youtu.be/rCG6Gdj_fWE "How to Write a Novel in Google Docs" Abbie Emmons on YouTube

How to Start

- Planning
  - If you plan, start with a plotting device, like:
  - Hero's Journey, 27 Chapter, Story Circle, Seven Point Story, Three Act Structure, Save the Cat, Romancing the Beat, Story Genius, Million Dollar Outline, Short Story.
  - Some paid writing apps (like Plottr and Livingwriter) have built in plotting templates.
  - I'm teaching a class on mine, a combination of Lisa Cron's Story Genius and Dave Farland's Million Dollar Outlines.
  - I plan my outlines on Google sheets for spreadsheets.

How to Continue

- Drafting
  - Let others around you know you're writing
  - Write whenever you turn to your phone-write instead of social media
  - Take advantage of snippets of time-even 50 words a day-write in 5 minute bursts
  - Write offline too-on trips or walks.
  - Share chapters-find a cheerleader partner

- Don't Forget:
  - Learn to watch for predictive text and spelling corrections
  - Use voice to text
  - If on Google Keep, use one note per scene or chapter
  - Use labels, color codes, pin latest chapters to the top
  - Backup each chapter by emailing to someone, saving to google docs, saving to Word

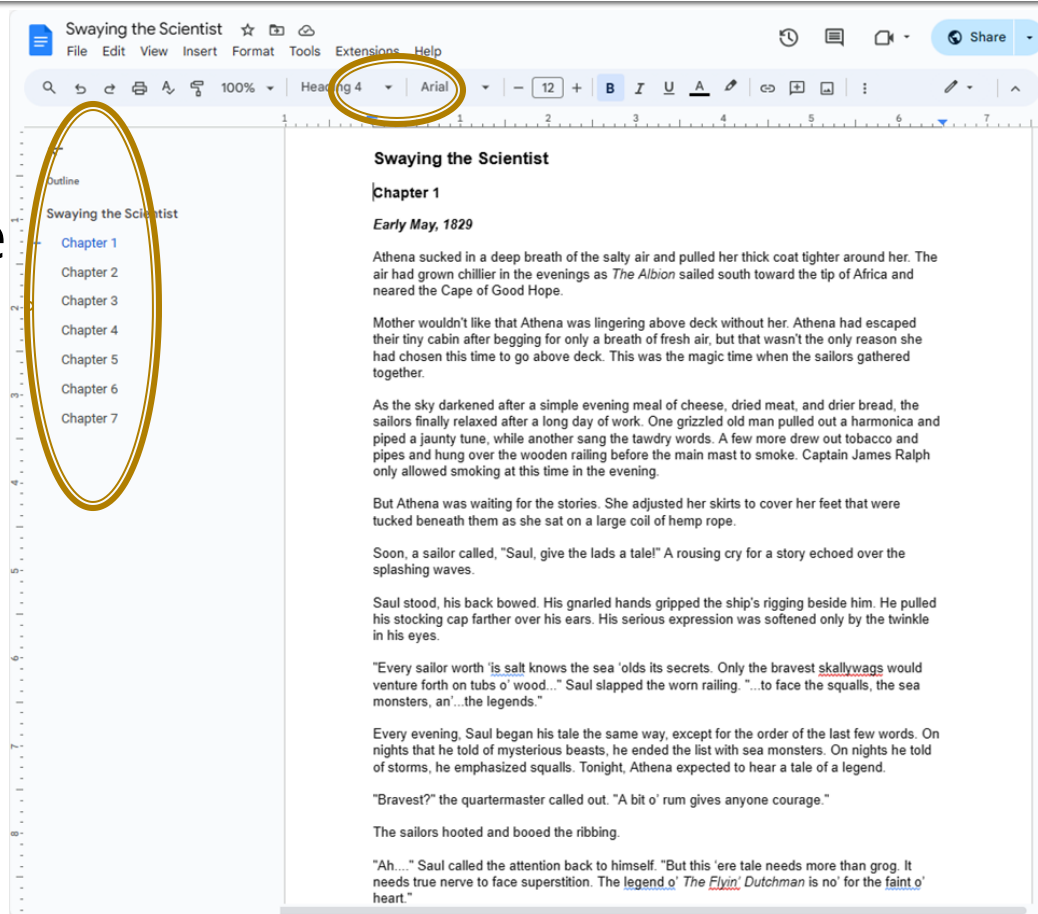**What can I accomplish in FIVE minutes a day?**

Five minutes a day

=

30+ hours a year

TIME
use it
wisely

How to Combine and Collaborate

- Combining and Collaborating
  - Send chapters to Google Docs and cut and paste into one document
  - Find and replace
  - Format
  - Self-edit
  - Invite readers
  - To create an interactive Table of Contents (outline) use chapter headings (1-4)

How to Publish

- Publishing
  - Word to format inside
  - Canva for cover art
  - Photoshop to finalize covers
  - Kindle Direct Publishing to publish

So...Write Every Day

WRITING

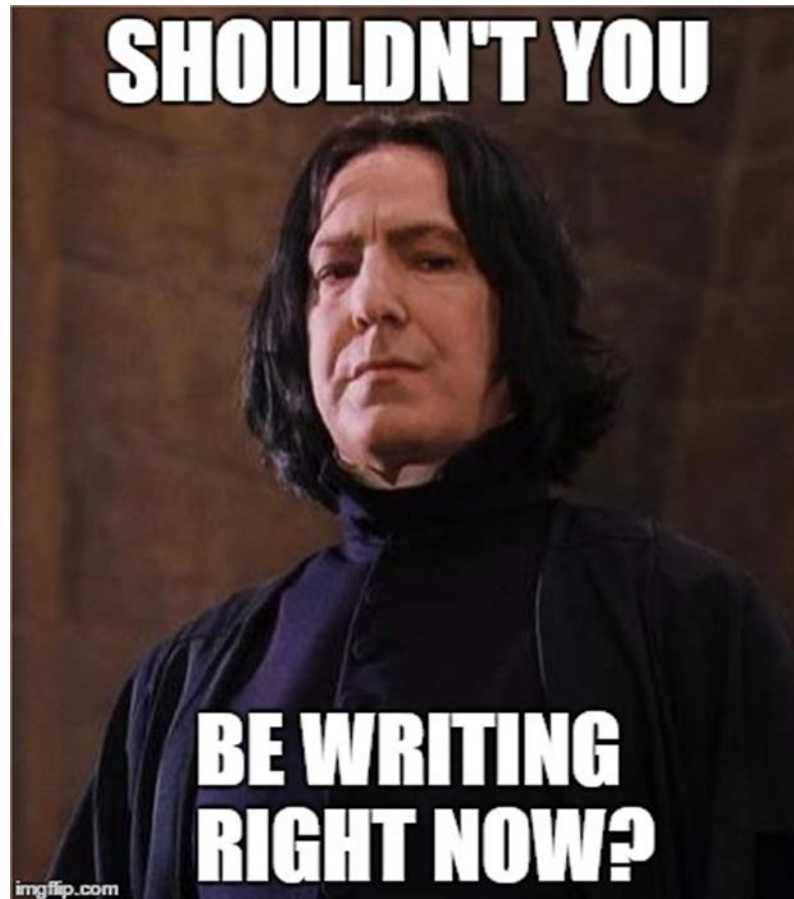A profession for introverts who want to tell you a story but don't want to make eye contact while telling it.

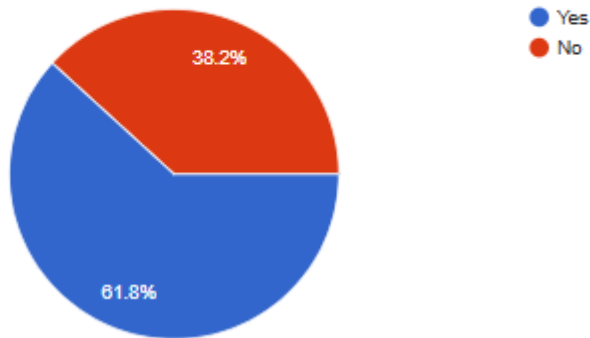# Or...Read Every Day

Demonstration

Survey Results

- Questions for survey
  - Have you ever used a phone app for writing?
  - Have you ever used a phone app for speech to text writing?
  - If so, which apps have you used?
  - Do you currently use a phone app for writing?
  - What percentage of your writing do you do on your phone?
  - Do you use your phone for other writing related uses? Research, plotting, idea generating, ai, image search, thesaurus, collaborating
  - Addl information on how you use your phone

Survey Results

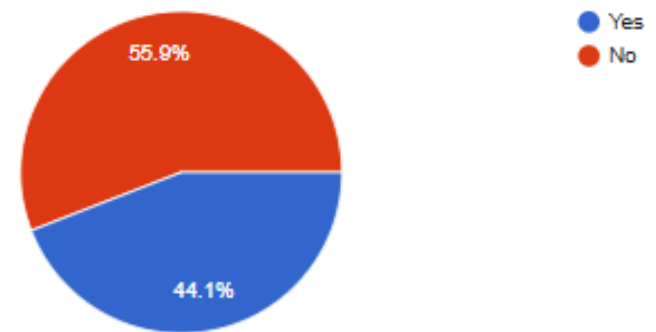**Have you ever used a phone app for writing?**

34 responses

- Yes
- No

38.2%

61.8%

If so, which apps have you used?
Google Docs
Notepad
Word
Notes
remarkable
Google docs
ColorNote (note app)
Notes.
Really only used Notes.
Google Doc
Note pad
Google Docs, Gmail (Use email drafts as a notebook)

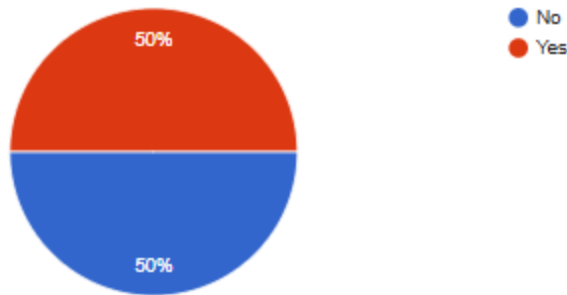**Do you currently use a phone app for writing?**

34 responses

- Yes
- No

55.9%

44.1%

I use email and text on my Apple phipone
Samsung notes
Campfire, Plottr, Google sheets
Scrivener, apple notes
NOTES
I don't write on my phone but I use voice aloud reader to listen for errors in the editing stage.
Google Docs, Notes
Apple Pages, email, text

Survey Results

Have you ever used a phone app for speech to text writing?
34 responses

- No
- Yes

50% / 50%

What percentage of your writing time is spent on your phone?
34 responses

- None
- 1% to 25%
- 26% to 50%
- 51% to 75%
- 76% to 100%

76.5% / 11.8%

If so, which apps have you used?
Transkriptor
Just my phone text to speak 🖊
Messenger
Notes will do speech to text.
Voice to text
Dragon
Note pad
Google docs
Android speech to text app
Just in my text messages
Only in text messages.
I dictate to email or text and send it to myself. Then I can copy and paste it into my manuscript.
Samsung notes
In scrivener or apple notes
NOTES
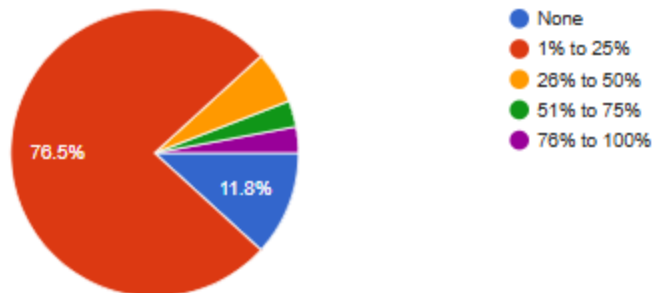Only for recording edits to type in later
Notes
Just the one with texting, but not really for any with my writing.
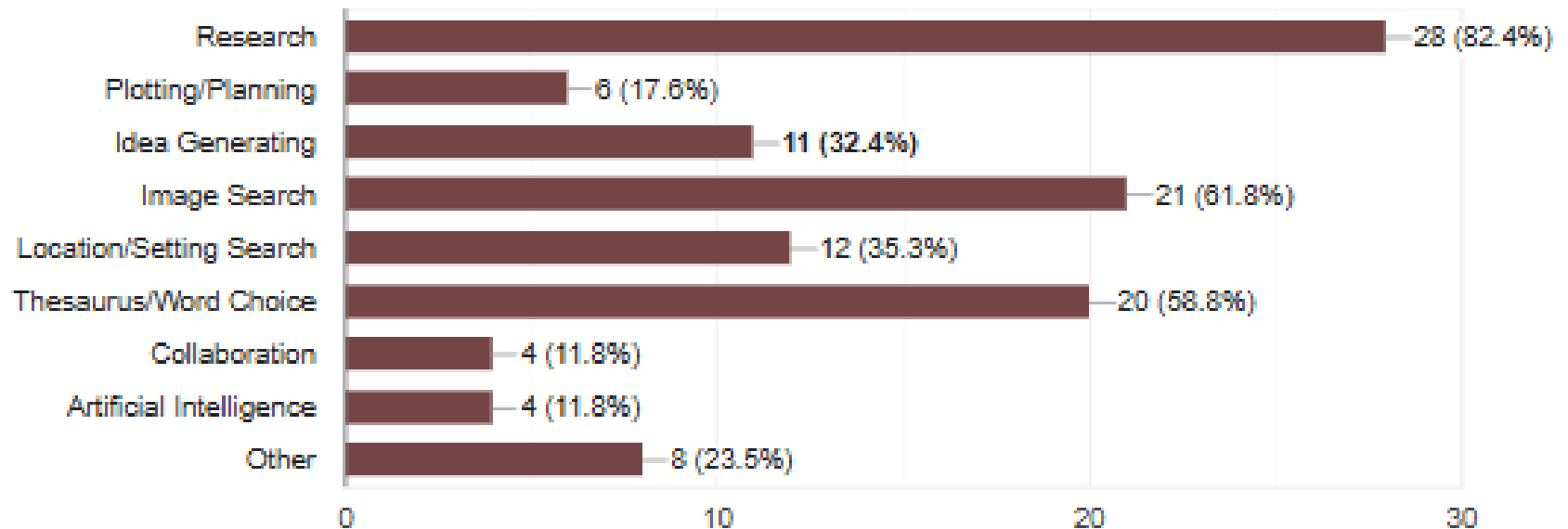Google Docs, Notes
Pages, text, email

Survey Results

Do you use your phone for other writing related uses?

Copy

34 responses

Survey Results

Additional information you would like to add about how you use your phone for writing:

- I'm not opposed to it. I guess I don't know what's available. I didn't even know this was a thing. But I don't even have social media on my phone so maybe I'm not the best person to ask:-)
- It's my favorite for a quick reference or to write a quick note if I'm out and about. I've also turned on my video camera and set my phone on my lap and recorded some dialogue while I was driving so I was still hands and eyes free but could record the brilliant dialogue that was happening.
- Pinterest
- Generally just use my phone if an idea comes to mind and I want to remember it.
- I often use editing software on my computer.
- I sync notes on my computer then copy from notes and paste into my document.
- I speech to text while driving. The editing sucks. It's not the best for real writing. It's great for quotes count boosting and brain dumping.
- Journaling and notes from research.
- It's mostly used for notes, not actual prose.
- None
- I tend to do more writing/dictating on my phone when traveling or if I'm away from home/computer and have an unexpected moment and a story idea.
- I'm not the writer you're looking for, but I'll likely be at the class to learn if it works for me.
- Just use it to jot down ideas I will need to reference later. Sometimes will take pictures of things to use later (reference book pages). Sometimes use browser to search for writing-related needs.
- I write on my phone 24/7 as ideas come & put them into a cohesive MS once a year during NaNoWriMo when my kids & hubby know I'm sitting down with my actual computer & as I really only do that 24/7 1 month per year they are quite supportive.
- I dictate emails or text myself, then copy or cut & paste into my manuscript. Sometimes I dictate directly into my manuscript.

My Notes

- Find a .pdf of this presentation on my website:
- https://www.dogdenhuff.com/