

CSC: CoR: Chapter 1: Thinking in Print

The 10 salient sentence strings presented below are lifted from the chapter as is, without modification (except, perhaps, for a bit of punctuation here or there). They are presented in order of appearance in the chapter.

Ten Salient Sentence Strings

1. When we walk into a library, we are surrounded by more than twenty-five centuries of research. When we go on the internet, we can read millions of reports written by researchers who have posted questions beyond number, gathered untold amounts of information from the research of others to answer them, then shared their answers with the rest of us so that we can carry on their work by asking new questions and, we hope, answer them.
2. Research is in fact the world's biggest industry. Those who cannot do it well or evaluate that of others will find themselves sidelined in a world increasingly dependent on sound ideas based on good information produced by trustworthy inquiry and then presented clearly and accurately.
3. Without trustworthy published research, we all would be locked in the opinions of the moment, prisoners of what we alone experience or dupes to whatever we're told.
4. If you are a student you may feel that you only have one reader: your teacher. All that may be true, for the moment. But at some point you will join a conversation that, at its best, can help you and your community free us from ignorance, prejudice and the half-baked ideas that so many charlatans try to impose on us.
5. If you accept it, you'll have to find a good question, search for sound data, formulate and support a good answer, and then write it all up.
6. *What do I gain from writing up my research, other than proving that I can do it?* One answer is that we write not just to share our work but to improve it before we do
7. When you don't take notes on what you read, you're likely to forget or, worse, misremember it
8. A second reason for writing is to see larger patterns in what you read. When you arrange and rearrange the results of your research in new ways, you discover new implications, connections, and complications
9. But it would be a feeble education that did not change you at all, and the deeper your education the more it will change the "you" that you are or want to be. That's why it is important to choose carefully what you study and with whom.
10. Writing up your research is, finally, thinking with and for your readers. When you write for others, you disentangle your ideas from your memories and wishes, so that you – and others – can explore, expand, combine, and understand them more fully. Thinking for others is more careful, more sustained, more insightful – in short, more thoughtful – than just about any other kind of thinking