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If you are reading this post, probably you are one of those people who, due to a reason or two, cannot write essay.

Either you have doubts over your writing ability or your grammar. You might have been thinking that you do not have quality ideas or that you need more information to write essays.

But that's okay. You should not feel alone in this as every CSS aspirant goes through it. It is a process for everyone.

The majority of people fail essay, i.e. around 95 to 98%. Have you ever wondered where the issue lies?

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Of course, you might curse our education system, but today that's not what we are talking about.

Changing the education system over the next few months is not within our reach, but developing the skill to write an essay sure is.

In today's post, I will discuss my journey from not being able to write a sentence to securing 47 marks in CSS, the people who fail, and the seven categories of those who cannot write essays.

So before starting our discussion on the issues and roadmap, let me share my experience of essay writing. You might relate to it.

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When I look back at 2009 and see the person I was, it just brings a smile on my face and an

overwhelming sense of achievement.

It was the time when I did not know how to write. And I am not speaking about essays.

No, I couldn't even write a proper sentence, let alone a paragraph.

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Can you believe the first paragraph that I started was with "the parrot"?

It might look strange and the topic too childish, but that is what it is. Even on that topic, my hand was shaking, and my pen was wobbling.

Therefore, if you are a beginner, never judge your writing with that of those who have been consistently writing. Get inspired, that's okay, but do not compare your skill with theirs.

Compare today's writing of yours with your own write up you did yesterday. Do not aim to beat the accomplished; try to outdo yourself first.

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So, how did I start improving?

It was a simple habit. I started writing, day in and day out.

Coming from a government school and being the son of a teacher who had always been like the Mahavir Singh Phogat from Dangal, I had already got a firm grip over tenses and usages. So, that part of writing was already covered.

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Now I started reading how to write. Although at that time, there was no particular blog or

book about writing for CSS, I had to resort to the only credible source at that time, the CSSforum website. It was before the Facebook and WhatsApp boom.

Today, when I see so many Facebook pages and WhatsApp groups and realise that if that had been the case at my time, I would never have passed CSS. So many pages and groups only distract you from your goal. Try to stick to a maximum of three quality pages or groups. Too many cooks spoil the broth.

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After reading a few posts on how to write, the first thing I did was reading the editorials of DAWN and writing them again in my words. From there, I started reading articles from JWT and tried to write them in my own words.

Although this benefitted me in the beginning, after a few weeks, I wasn't improving. I had hit the plateau from where I wasn't growing anymore.

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Circumstance and events led me to join the COMEX ACADEMY, where I met my mentor. It was where I correctly learnt how to write essay. More than learning the technicalities of essay, I was given the confidence to write.

See, it is more the confidence that you need than the grip over mechanics of writing stuff. If you have a mentor whose sole focus is to teach you what a paragraph looks like, and does not cater to your human needs of connection, attachment, confidence, and trust, then I would suggest you change your mentor. A right mentor can guarantee you to succeed.

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First, I learnt to write paragraphs. For almost a month, I practised it. I regularly got my stuff checked. The practice made me focus on the things I lacked in.

Then I started writing idea expansions. That was when I thought to myself, "yes, I can do it now". After two months of writing idea expansion, I wrote my first essay on climate change. I first read extensively about it, made a proper outline and started writing.

I took me four hours to finish it, but I finished it nevertheless. For me, it was a huge jump. I know that essay wasn't right, but it was enough to give me confidence.

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But I did not let the feeling of complacency take over me. Instead, I planned to write one more essay, then one more, then one again, then again. And this way, I wrote around 15 essays before my exam over two years.

Although I do not have those essays with me, I either lost them over this period, or somebody took them from me, but the skill of writing is still with me. For around five years, I had not written anything substantial. But now, I have resumed writing again with the same confidence.

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You do not need big ideas, nor do you need loads of information, statistics and quotations. I did not use a single quotation or reference in my essay. Unbelievable? It might be, but it is true.

Apart from basic grammar which is essential, you need not worry about sentence structure or the development of your language to perfection.

My whole essay didn't have a word that was alien to an 8th grader of a government school. Check out all of my blogs, and you will hardly find a word or two which you don't have an idea about.

My philosophy is to keep your sentences and words simple. Focus more on the flow than on the weight of the words. Write short but crisp sentences. I have seen my friends failing CSS because they resorted to verbosity in their write-ups.

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So, the bottom line is that Essay writing is not as difficult as it is often thought. Yes, it has some technicalities which need to be worked out. But do not use it as an excuse to avoid writing. How would you know about the technicalities if you do not write it?

Write on your own, or find a mentor, whatever suits you. But please keep writing.

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