

Why I Write
R. Nicholas Håaj

I write because -

Writing is freedom. Writing is the voice developing over a lifetime's worth of rights and wrongs. Writing is reading. Writing is listening. Writing is seeing. Writing is paying homage to those who went before. Writing is bequeathal to an unknown. Writing is an argument with the self. Writing is the respect shown others. Writing is at the heart of the democratic experiment. Writing is a republican virtue. Writing is the arc of justice honored. Writing is responsibility assumed. Writing is as imperfect as we can ever hope to be. Writing is language, nuanced and blunt. Writing transports to folly and condemns. Writing brings beauty that sustains. Writing is Lincoln at Gettysburg with 272 words. Writing is Proust with many splendid more. Writing is Orwell, in darkening hours, warning. Writing is King upon deliverance. Writing delivers us from ourselves. Writing is prayer whispered at night. Writing is resolution. Writing is how we greet and bid farewell. Writing is the heavy-felt ink against exquisite paper. Writing is the nubby pencil scratching on scrap. Writing is the humbling simple sentence. Writing is complexity of compound thought, released. Writing is frustration, flight and return. Writing is character morphing to destiny. Writing is layering logic. Writing is going forth naked. Writing is faith. Writing is an alter to faith. Writing is finite posterity. Writing is paradox. Writing is disjointed thoughts, joined. Writing is confidence. Writing is error corrected. Writing is a love letter to common humanity. Writing is compulsion. Writing is courage in a fearsome world. Writing is protracted moments of truth. Writing is corollary to action. Writing is a contribution to worlds imagined. Writing is words touched. Writing is the blank page filled. Writing is letting wither all that grew before. Writing *is* the seasons. Writing is ... Writing is ...

Writing is the pen my father gifted me to mark my thoughts. Writing is what I've chosen to learn. Writing is what I've been taught. Writing is what I've been becoming.

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