THE

ACADEMIC WRITING

PROCESS









I came across this graph during my Ph.D., which has remained with me ever since. The original post is by

Sarah Perry

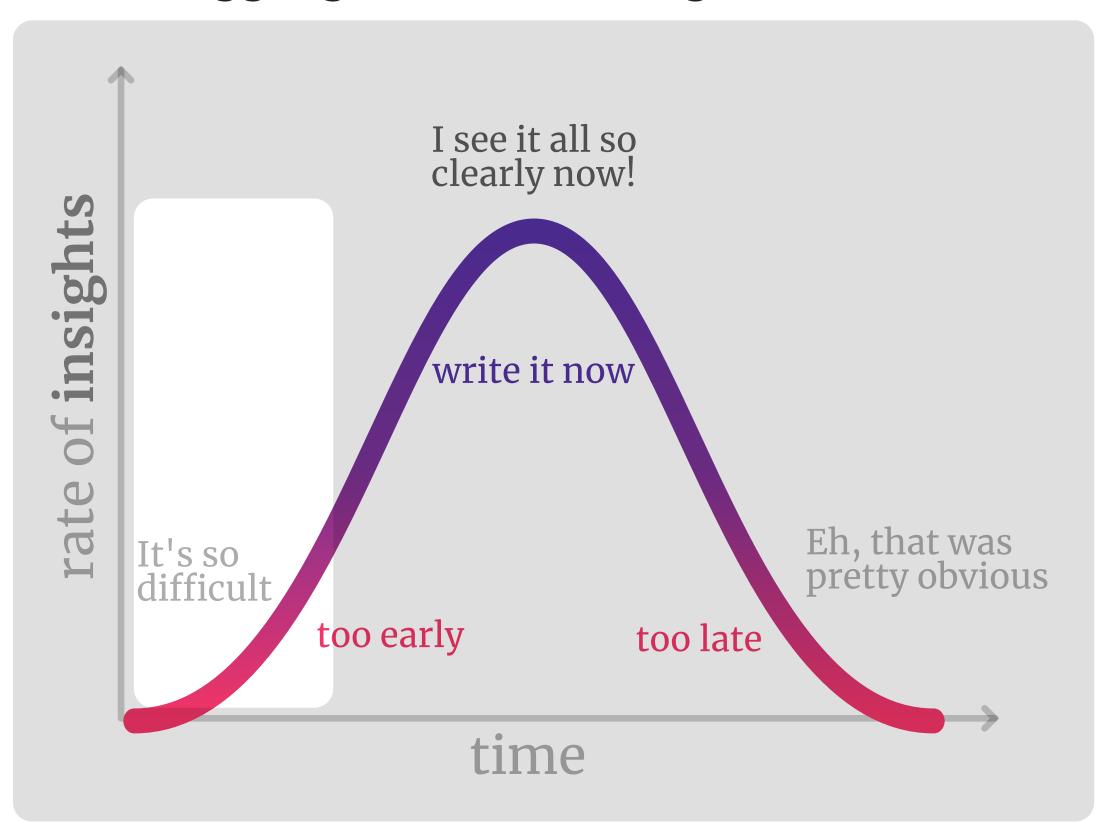
on Twitter and, the concept is eloquently explained on the blog

Meta-rationality





At the onset of research, you start to understand the subject, but the complete structure of the topic is unclear to you, and you are struggling to find new insights.



At this stage you should write down all the dumb questions that you have about the topic. But, it is too early for you to have any definitive insights.





As you progress with your research, new connections in your understanding start to take shape, and the rate of new insights also increases.

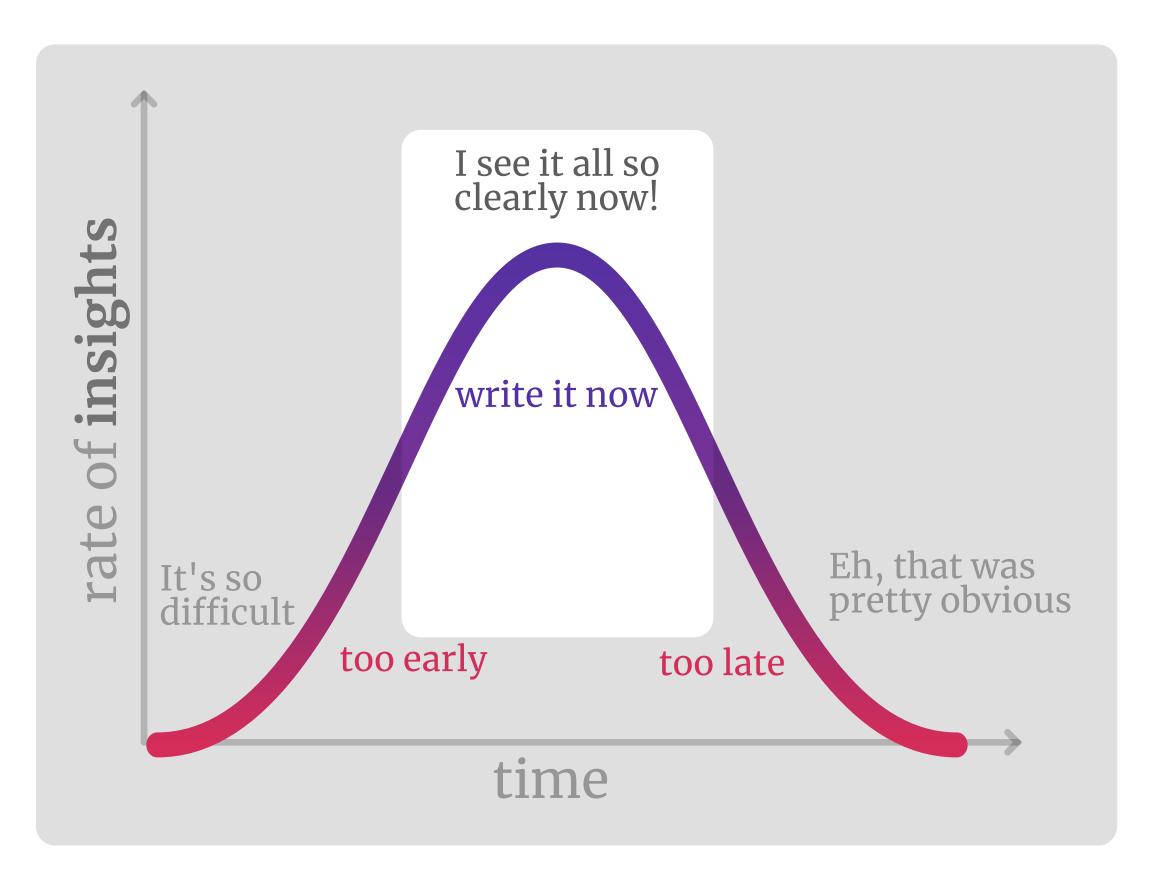


Starting the writing process at this stage is crucial yet many neglect to document their understanding.





The rate of insights peaks when a bunch of ideas you have accumulated fall together into a pattern.

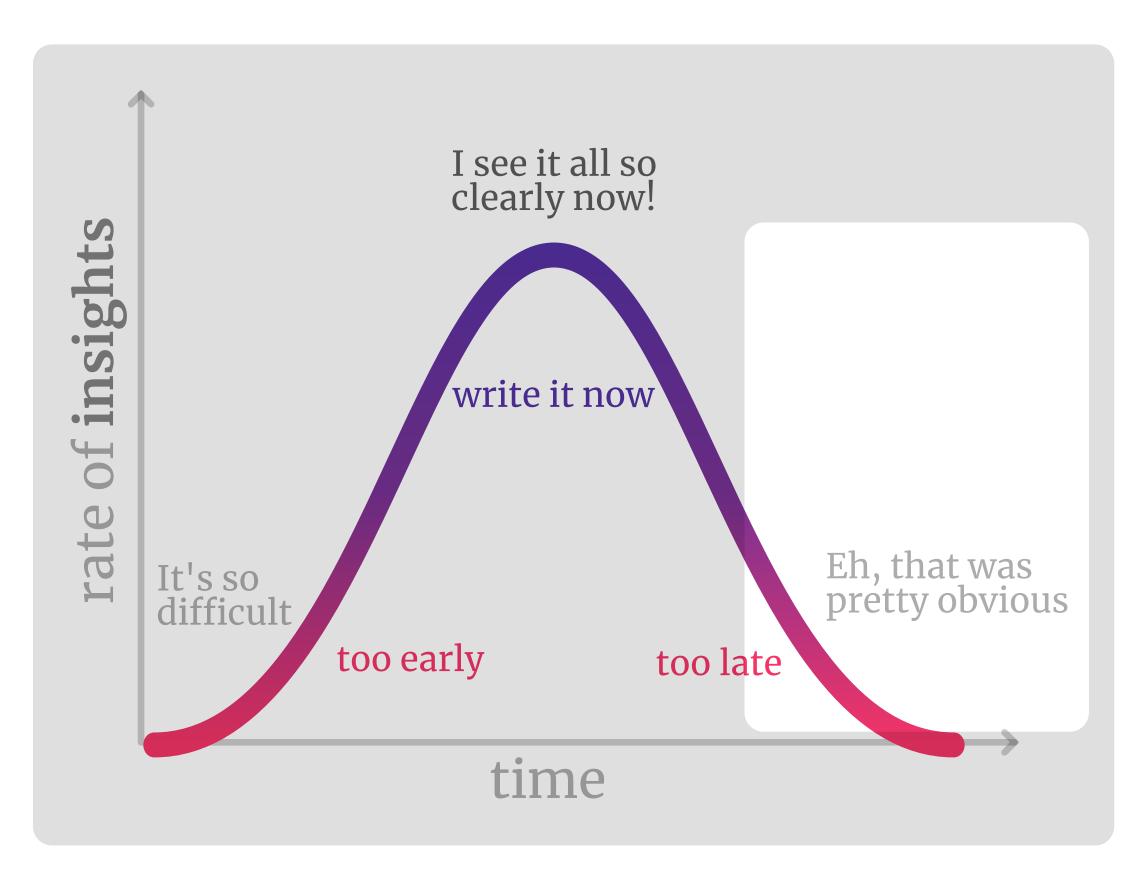


This is tremendously exciting and is the best time to document the insight - because excitement is contagious!





Once you've fully understood something, there is nothing new to learn, and writing about it will bore you as well as your readers.



Delaying the documentation of your understanding until you've fully comprehended the subject may result in the loss of insights and memory bias.





Don't Wait for Better Understanding to Write

Write for Better Understanding!





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