

NODE Book Club

Building a Second Brain

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The **CODE** Method: The Four Steps to Remembering What Matters



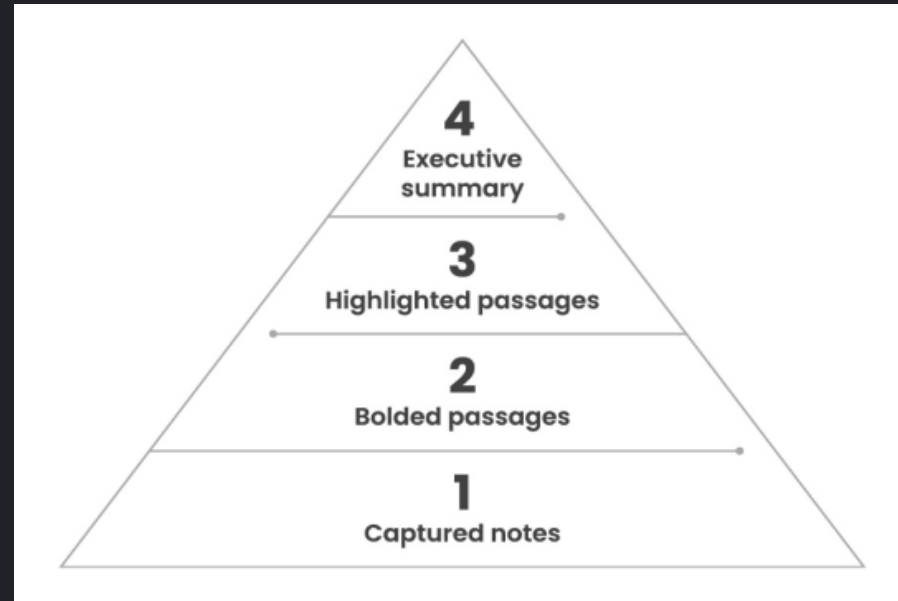
Distill - Find The Essence

“ To attain knowledge, add things every day. To attain wisdom, remove things every day.
Lao Tzu, ancient Chinese philosopher ”

Discoverability

- Discoverability is the most important factor in whether your notes can survive that journey into the future.
- The more notes you collect, the less discoverable they become.
- **Highlighting** the most important points is a simple habit that enhances the discoverability of your notes.

Highlighting 2.0: Progressive Summarization



Four layers of Progressive Summarization

Most Common Mistakes

- Over-highlighting
- Highlighting without a purpose in mind
- Making highlighting difficult

Your Turn: Keep Your Future Self in Mind

Express - Show Your Work

“

We only know what we make
Giambattista Vico, Italian philosopher

”

Intermediate Packets: The Power of Thinking Small

Five kinds of Intermediate Packets you can create and **reuse** in your work:

- Distilled notes
- Outtakes
- Work-in-process
- Final deliverables
- Documents created by others

Leverage Your Existing Creativity

- Everyday work creates reusable by-products (IP).
- **Save & organize** IPs in a Second Brain for easy reuse.
- **Assemble existing materials** instead of starting from scratch.

Retrieve saved ideas with four methods:

1. **Search** – Quickly find notes with keywords.
2. **Browsing** – Navigate folders for structured discovery.
3. **Tags** – Link related ideas across projects.
4. **Serendipity** – Unexpected connections spark creativity.

Everything is a Remix

Creativity is about reusing and recombining ideas to build something new.

Your Turn: You Only Know What You Make

Create to truly understand. Express ideas, test knowledge, and share your work to unlock your full potential.

Final Words

See you in the next part!