**Writing Portfolio**

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**Passage 1: *I Wish Someone Had Told Me***

The author shares her views on how to have a successful academic career. Apart from technical skills acquired from scientific education, soft skills are equally, if not more, important. The first tip is effective communication. Talking to researchers and nominating oneself to supervisors to practice writing papers is crucial. Learning from others and adopting good characteristics into presentations is also beneficial. Second, it is important to get the right people on board and seize any opportunity to interact with seasoned scientists, leaving a good lasting impression by being polite and confident. Third, being prepared to give an elevator pitch is essential. Rehearsing the project until it can be fully understood and pitched within a few minutes is recommended. Lastly, perseverance and focus are key to success. Breaking insurmountable tasks into manageable chunks can help maintain momentum. Never forgetting the initial motivation helps to gain renewed enthusiasm continuously.

**Passage 2: *The Importance of Stupidity in Scientific Research***

Science is intrinsically hard because it immerses us in the infinite unknown, leading to inevitable feelings of ignorance and inadequacy regardless of talent. These feelings, rather than being discouraging, are liberating as they allow us to navigate through uncertainties and learn from repeated failures. Embracing this stupidity by choice allows scientists to push the boundaries of what is known and make significant discoveries. Traditional education emphasizes mastering established knowledge, but transitioning to research requires accepting and managing the uncertainty intrinsic to scientific exploration. Ph.D. programs should prepare students for this reality by normalizing the experience of ignorance as part of the research process. By learning to embrace and navigate their ignorance, students can shift from acquiring existing knowledge to making their own discoveries, ultimately fostering a deeper engagement with the unknown and driving innovation in science.

**Passage 3: *Why Did We Go Virtual?***

The concept of work has shifted from being tied to a physical location to an activity that can be performed anywhere. Initially common for roles like sales, this change has now spread across various industries. The primary motivation for this shift is cost reduction. Companies like IBM and AT&T adopted virtual work models to save on real estate and related costs. However, moving to virtual work should also align with the organization's mission and strategy. It's crucial to assess whether this model enhances productivity and customer relations, as jobs requiring face-to-face interactions or specialized equipment may not be suitable for virtual work. Despite these considerations, the trend towards virtual work continues to grow, suggesting that more businesses are expected to go virtual in the future.