



Published in ILLUMINATION



Yogesh Haribhau Kulkarni (PhD)

Feb 12 · 4 min read · Listen



Save



# What to do in the 2nd Inning?

My own musings at the upcoming Golden Birthday



Photo by [Estée Janssens](#) on [Unsplash](#)



I have been searching for a good skill, a vocation to learn, that will help me sail through the 2nd inning (50+, aka Part II) of my life.

## **The Search**

Every weekend I used to indulge in binge-watching YouTube videos or listening to multiple podcasts on various topics to converge on some domain. Something like Explainable AI, 3d1b like videos, etc. and I used to evaluate them against my two principles/filters for the selection i.e. IKIGAI and Specific Knowledge.

At times, I had to somehow force them into those principles and then do some reading and/or exercises to test my own compatibility with them. For all such activities I would typically create my own GitHub repository, keep my work and reference material there. All that will go on for a few days/weeks and then fizzle out or I will get some new idea to move forward. So, would eventually delete that newly created GitHub repository!! Back to Zero!!

This has been going on for more than a year now. Some areas like Genetics, and Bio-NLP (Natural Language Processing) demanded a lot more preparation, as there are far more unknowns to be a viable career option in Part II. To go one level deep, I did quite a few such courses. So many, that my LinkedIn profile couldn't accept more!!

The latest of the topics is 'sketchnotes', to be more precise, 'technical-sketchnotes'.

## **Why Technical-Sketchnotes?**

There is nothing new to be learned here. I have been sketching for years and I have been working in and also teaching technical subjects such as Computer-aided Design (CAD), Artificial Intelligence (AI), and Machine Learning (ML) for years. I have been preparing training material for years. I have a GitHub-Publications folder, which has all these contents, especially the summary notes, mostly in text form. So the skills are/were already there. What's new is the combination, of technical + sketch notes, which is relatively rare.

Technical prowess at AI-ML or Technology in general plus artistic inclination is a unique combination, combined with a decent ability of understanding and to make concise witty summaries, all get merged in technical-sketch notes. This is really rare.

Mike Rohde, Doug Neil, and Tanmay Vora are definitely good at sketchnote but their topics are typically not AI-ML related. There are a few with technical and artistic prowess as well such as Yalda Shankar and Tomomi Imura, but not a whole lot.

So if I get this topic well it can be good expertise to build and pursue. I can start going through only long-form, seemingly lengthy content that people just don't have time to go through, say, 1–2–3 hours Lex Fridman talk or Tim Ferris 4 hours podcast.

Not many have time and patience.

What I bring to the table is a concise and hopefully precise summary along with visual elements (which are completely missing from podcasts for sure) as well as content insights to an extent. People can go through the 1 pager technical-sketch notes-summaries either to learn and understand the topic quickly, keep them as a reference, or use it as a filter even to decide whether to listen to that original long form or not. This being a summary and not lifting of the content as is, the copyright law should be ok with it. Anyways I will be putting a big title and original author or interviewee names in the sketches so as not to miss the attribution.

## **Process of Sketchnoting**

For preparation, I go through the podcast or video thoroughly, make the text as well as rough doodle notes first and then arrange them in a portrait mode with columns or rows or radial layout for the final version. I do not wish to make it cluttered or just too colorful or utterly useless or unreadable content. It can be airy, and sparse but has to be readable at first sight. More emphasis on the content, and text first, and later replace text with symbols or icons to make it funny. I don't wish to add doodles just for sake of it. Even colors need to be used sparingly to highlight borders and accentuate the highlights. I will remain analog as much as possible. Going digital is better for editing, storing, and sharing but at least for this year it's both rough and fair in analog mode.

## **What do I get?**

Out of 3 => Freedom, Fame, and Fortune, this technical-sketchnoting can surely give Freedom and Fame but whether Fortune (read \$\$) will come or not depends on the success and global recognition. At this point, there is no conflict of interest also. I can

safely build this hobby and explain difficult topics to the masses. That's what a teacher of crystallized intelligence has to do after 50.



Photo by [Trystan Lothaire](#) on [Unsplash](#)

My motto has been “I am not looking for success, but, for Wonder!!”, the WoW!! I think I have found my mojo here.

[Sketchnote](#)

[Life](#)

[Advice](#)

[Future](#)

[Hobby](#)

---

**Sign up for ILLUMINATION Highlights**

By ILLUMINATION

We share our daily distribution list, featured stories, and progress updates from our publication. Writer Inquires <https://digitalmehmet.com/contact> We offer a free Slack workspace for collaboration. [Take a look.](#)

Emails will be sent to [kulkarniay@gmail.com](mailto:kulkarniay@gmail.com). [Not you?](#)



Get this newsletter