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Sketchnoting

Why, How and What?



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Sketchnote is a visual abstraction, figuring out what's important and then mapping to appropriate symbolism, as a gist in a single page.

Why?

Podcasts (or videos or talks and to an extent even books or blogs) are black-boxes. You don't get anything unless you go through them fully. There is no preview-trailer of what's coming, wasting our time in case the topic is not interesting to you. Even if it is interesting, you may not have time to go through all that story-built-up or flamboyance (all-that-jazz) to get the core idea. One pager Summary gives much desired quick and concise overview. Just a text summary can be boring, so adding fun-pictures helps retention and interest.

So the need for sketchnoting:

- Information overload
- Less time & attention
- Need ready & fun gist

Motto: 3 Ss: Simplify, Subtract & Summarize

How?

Following is the current process I am following:

- Go through source, take text notes, bulleted
- Prepare rough sketchnote, decide layout
- Capture ideas, concepts, quotes, examples
- Add symbols, containers, arrows.
- Visual vocabulary: stick figures, letterings, faces, nature, buildings, things, flowcharts, graphs, 2d/3d, connectors, containers and layout.
Portrait mode like info-graphics
- Add contact details at the end.

- Include it in a Medium story with a witty title and with appropriate pixabay-Unsplash banner image

One caution that I keep in mind, as always a quote from Einstein: Make things simple but not simpler!! Try not to have very art-y, too much colorful, cluttered-spaghetti sketchnote, but clean sparingly arty and a bit colorful with a clear path or structure to read.

Although extremely convenient for editing, storing and sharing, I am avoiding digital sketchnotes for now. So no iPad Pro with Apple pen. Wish to keep it analog, to preserve the rawness and with all the mistakes as is.

What?

Here are the possible sources on my radar:

- My own reviews-summaries in [github/Publications](#)
- Newsletters/blogs: [Derek Sivers](#), [Paul Graham](#), [Shane Perish](#), [Morgan Housel](#), etc.
- Podcasts: [Lex Fridman](#), [Tim Ferris](#), [Shane Perish](#), [Think Bank](#), etc.
- Books: [Almanac Naval Ravikant](#), [Derek Sivers Book Reviews](#), etc.

Examples

Here are a few examples of nice Sketchnotes by others and folks to follow:

- [Doodles-as-A-Service Repo](#) Algorithms, Machine Learning, Git Purr — Git Explained with Cats!, Live Sketchnotes from Conferences and Classes
- [Tess Ferrandez notes of Deep Learning from Andrew Ng](#)
- [Kathy Schrock Guide to Sketchnoting](#)
- [GoGaRuCo 2014- Sketchnoting](#): Creative Notes for Technical Content
- [Tomomi Imura](#)
- [Visual ML Notes](#)

- [Felizia Bernutz](#)
- [Script 19 conference sketchnotes](#)
- [Sketchnoting 101: Drawing as a Communication Tool](#), A course by Scriberia, Visual Thinking Agency

So, even though you may not have liked ‘Drawing’ as a subject in school, think yourself as not of artist type, but can draw lines-squares-and-circles, you are good to get started!!

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