



WEEKLY QUESTIONS - THE WAR OF ART

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The questions below are intended to make you think about the material you are reading and how it applies to your own life, as well as where you can make changes. You can answer these questions on your blog, in a journal, or in our [Facebook group](#) – or all of the above! If you are behind, don't worry. All the information will be there for you to come back to at your own pace. No stress. No judgment. No guilt!

QUESTIONS:

1. Are you “waiting for something” before you start your Work? Waiting to be “healed,” waiting for more time, waiting for inspiration, waiting for the right time?
2. In “Resistance and Support” SP talks about how workshops are the “colleges of Resistance.” They allow us to talk and think about working rather than actually working. I would often feel this way about writers' groups on Facebook – a lot of people talking about writing, discussing writing, but not actually writing. Do you belong to any groups like this? Do you have a relationship with another person working on the same goal, but you spend more time talking about your ideas and dreams than actually DOING anything?
3. In two chapters, SP talks about “Resistance and Rationalization.” How do you rationalize your resistance?
4. In “Professionals and Amateurs,” SP lays out the differences between professionals and amateurs. Looking at the creative work in front of you right now, are you a pro or an amateur? If you are an amateur, what attitudes or behaviors do you need to change in order to be a pro?
5. There's a fallacy that at one point in time, we will overcome our Resistance (or fear). But according to SP, it will always be with us. How does that realization make you feel?
6. I love the section, “We're All Pros Already.” In it, SP shows us that in some areas of our lives, we're already acting like professionals. In what areas of your life are you already a professional?

7. Another fallacy SP tackles is the idea of the diva or “prima donna,” those who want everything *just* so before they can proceed. Do you have a tendency to act like a prima donna? How does that hinder you from doing your Work?
8. To you, what is the distinction between “craft” and “art?” If you were to develop your “craft,” what would be some of the angles you'd work on?
9. What are your biggest takeaways or “Aha!” realizations from this section?

Summary:

- Professionals get it done; they don't wait for inspiration, or for the right time, or the right place. They do what they need to do because they have a job to do.
- Fear (resistance) will never completely abate. We just get better at recognizing it and working through it.
- We are already professionals in some areas; we need to translate these habits and behaviors to our Work.

“The amateur believes he must first overcome his fear; then he can do his work. The professional knows that fear can never be overcome. He knows there is no such thing as a fearless warrior or a dread-free artist.”