

Sketch Your Mind 2025

How I Write My Books

Visual Structures That Help You Think

Jorge Arango

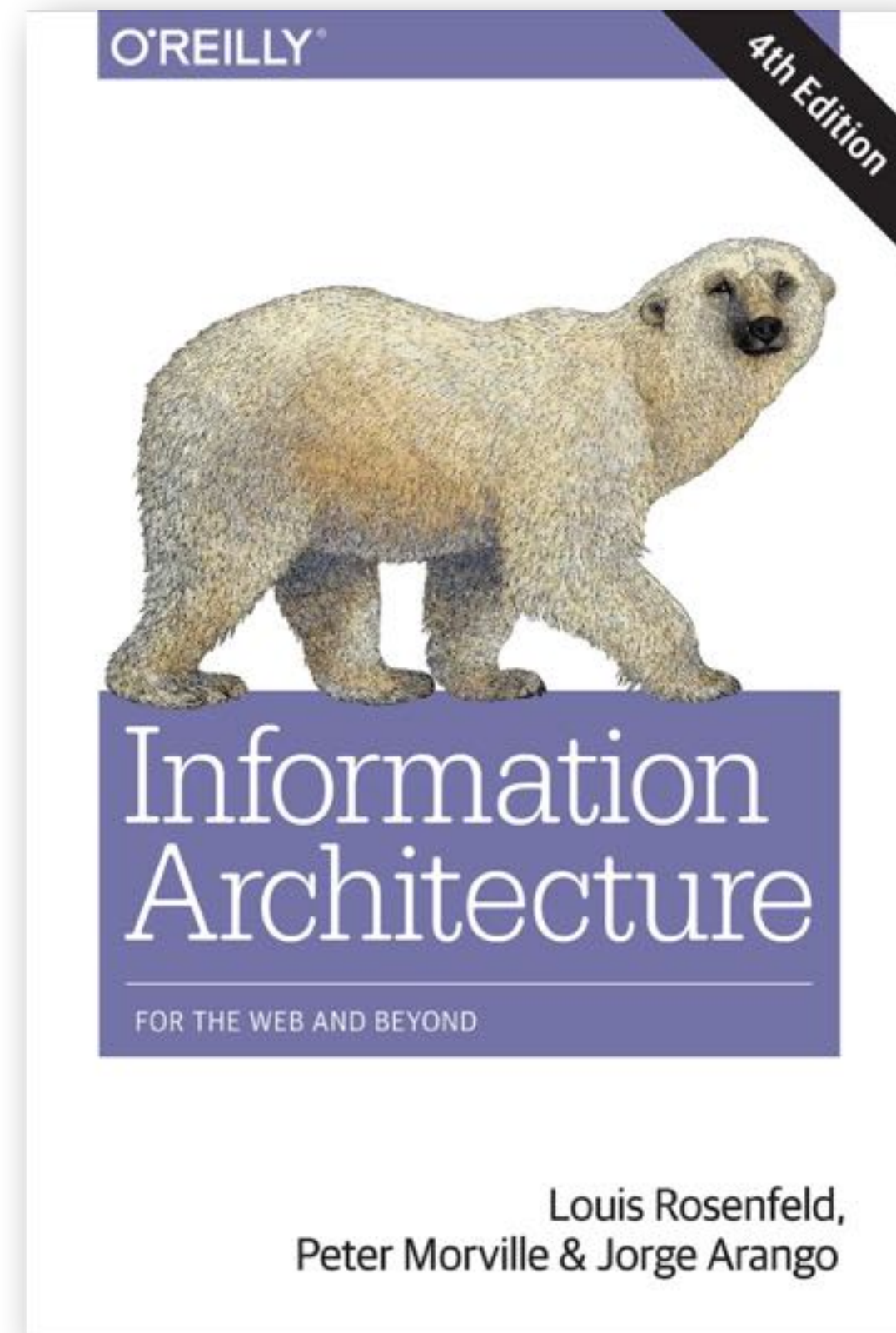
jarango.com/speaking



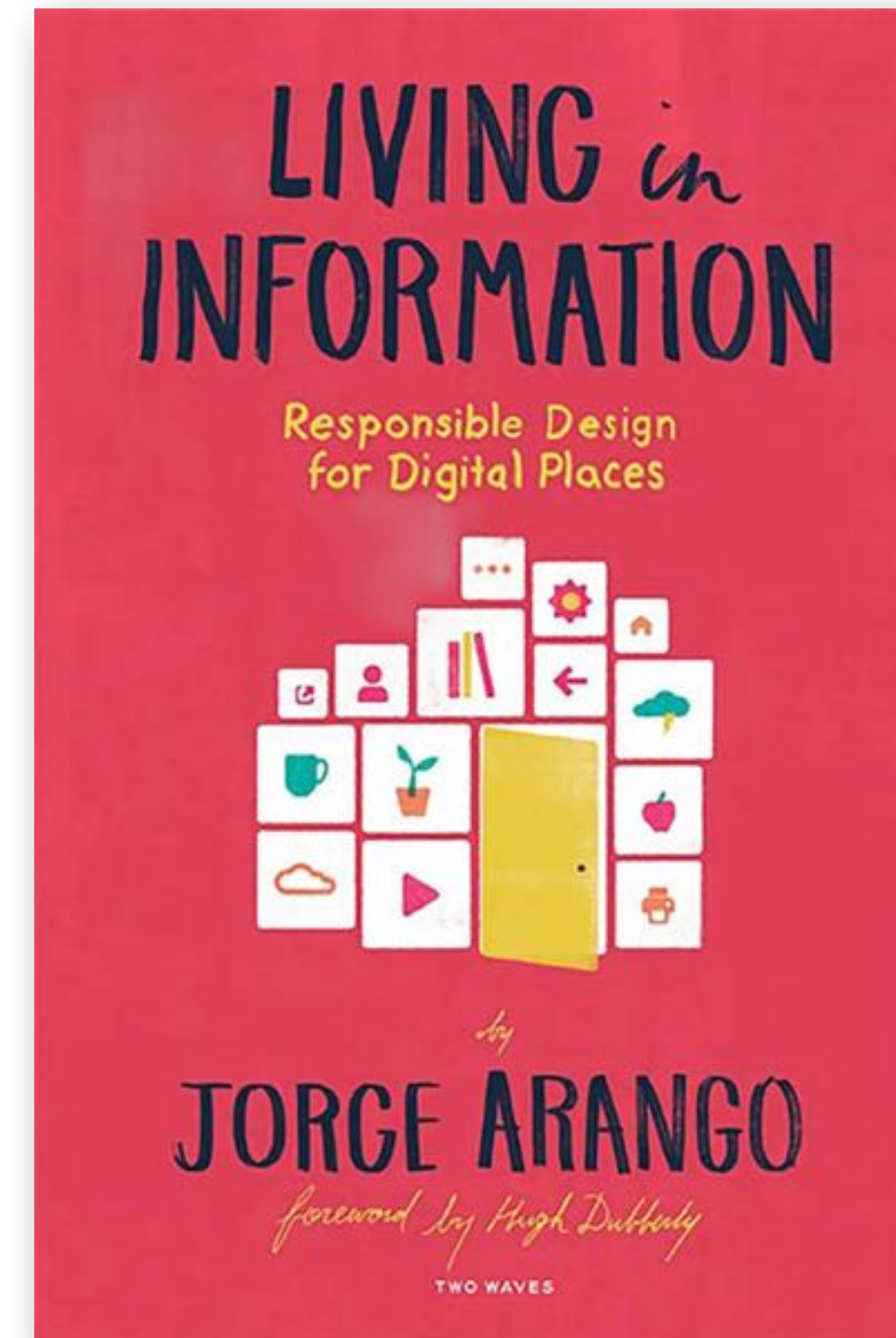
A bit about me:

- Information architect
- Author
- Educator

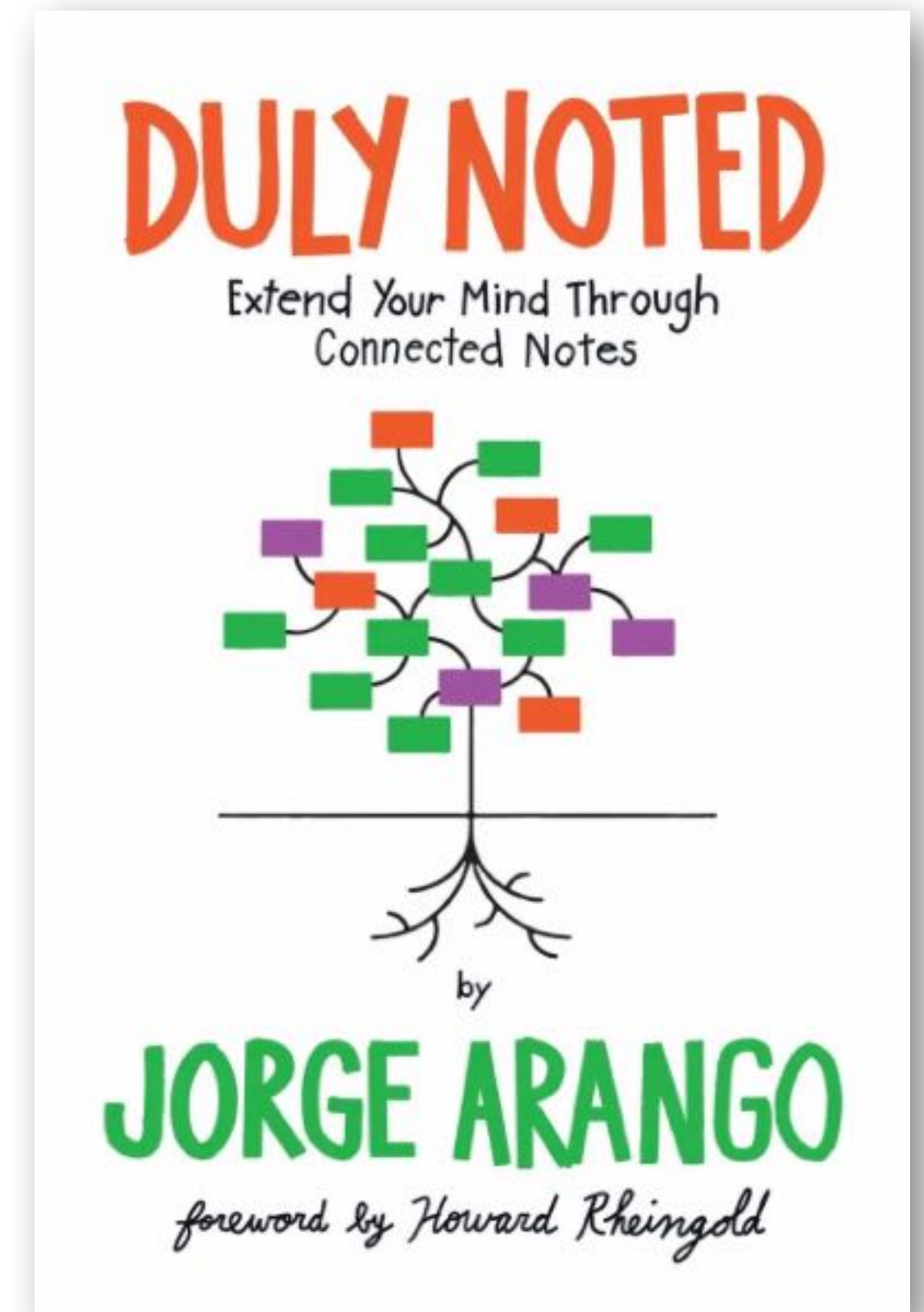
2015



2018

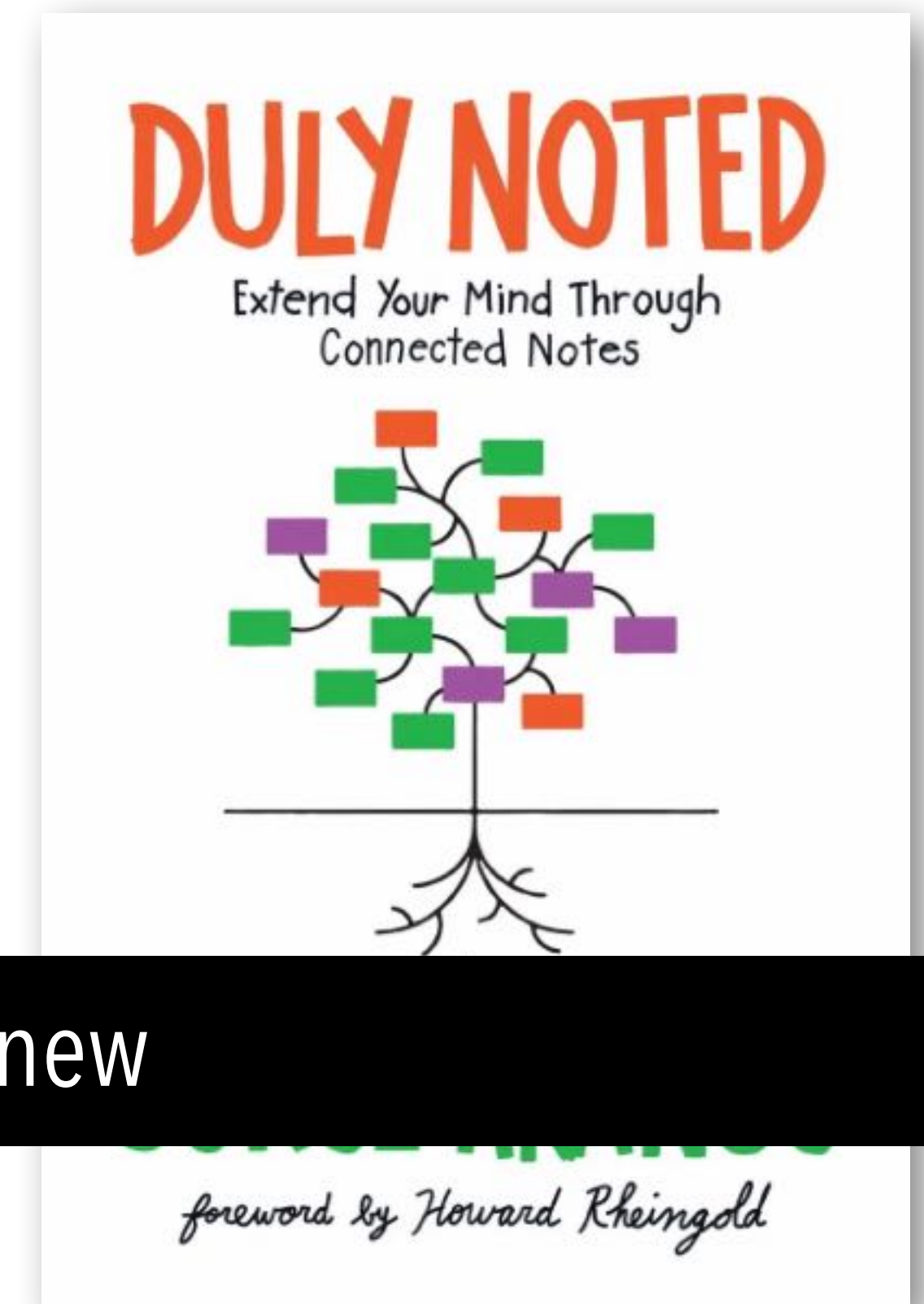
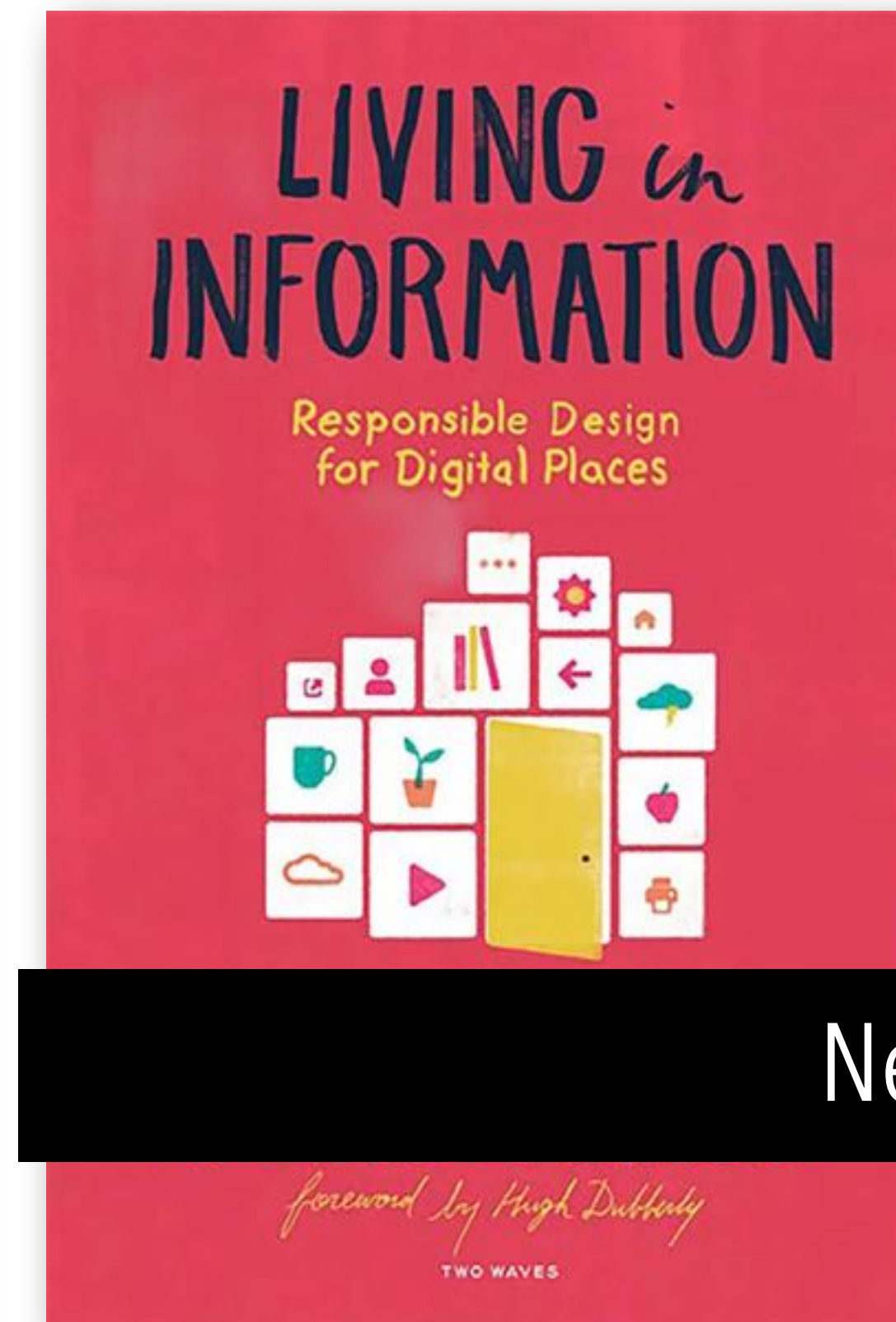
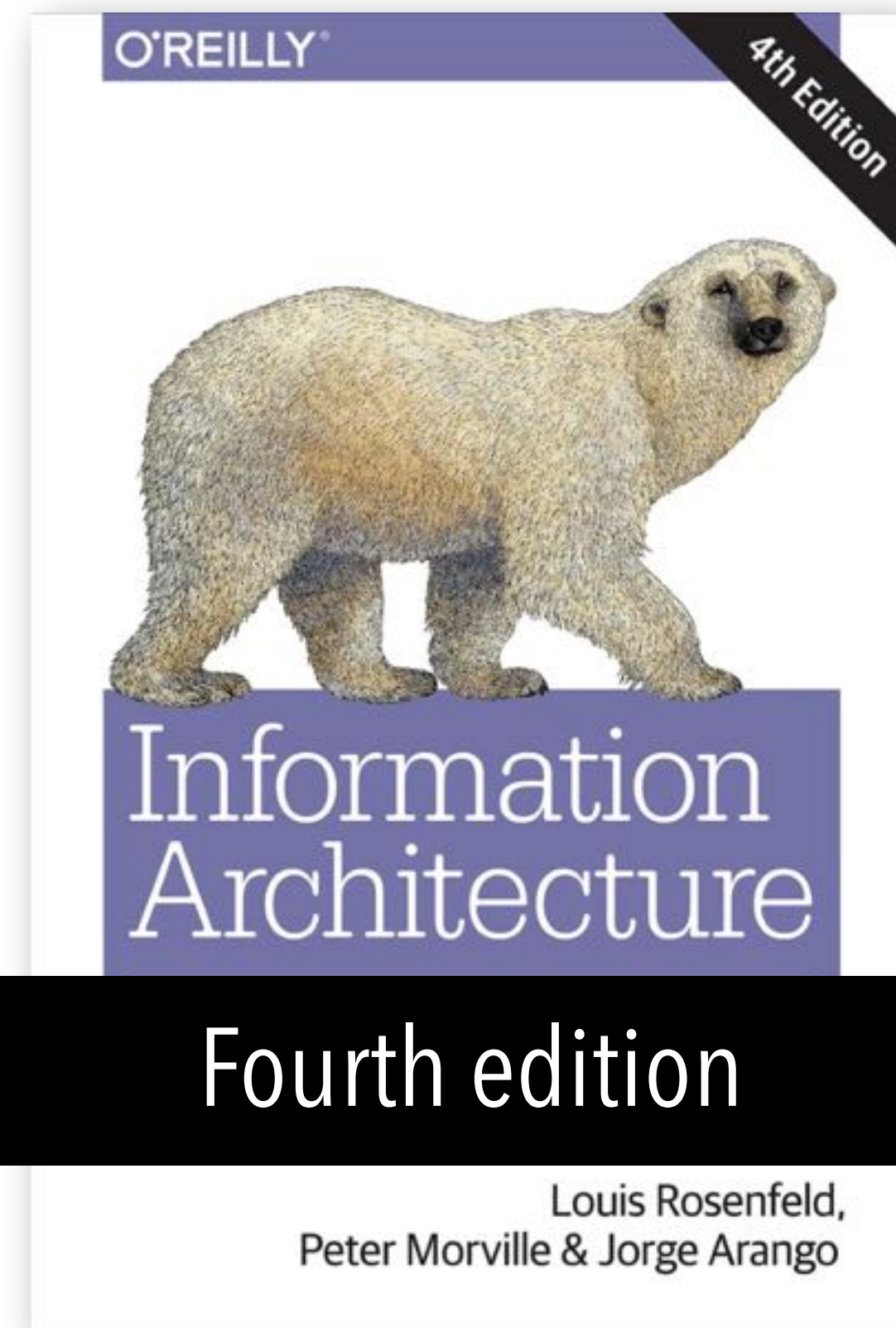


2024



The first book – a fourth edition –had a different process.

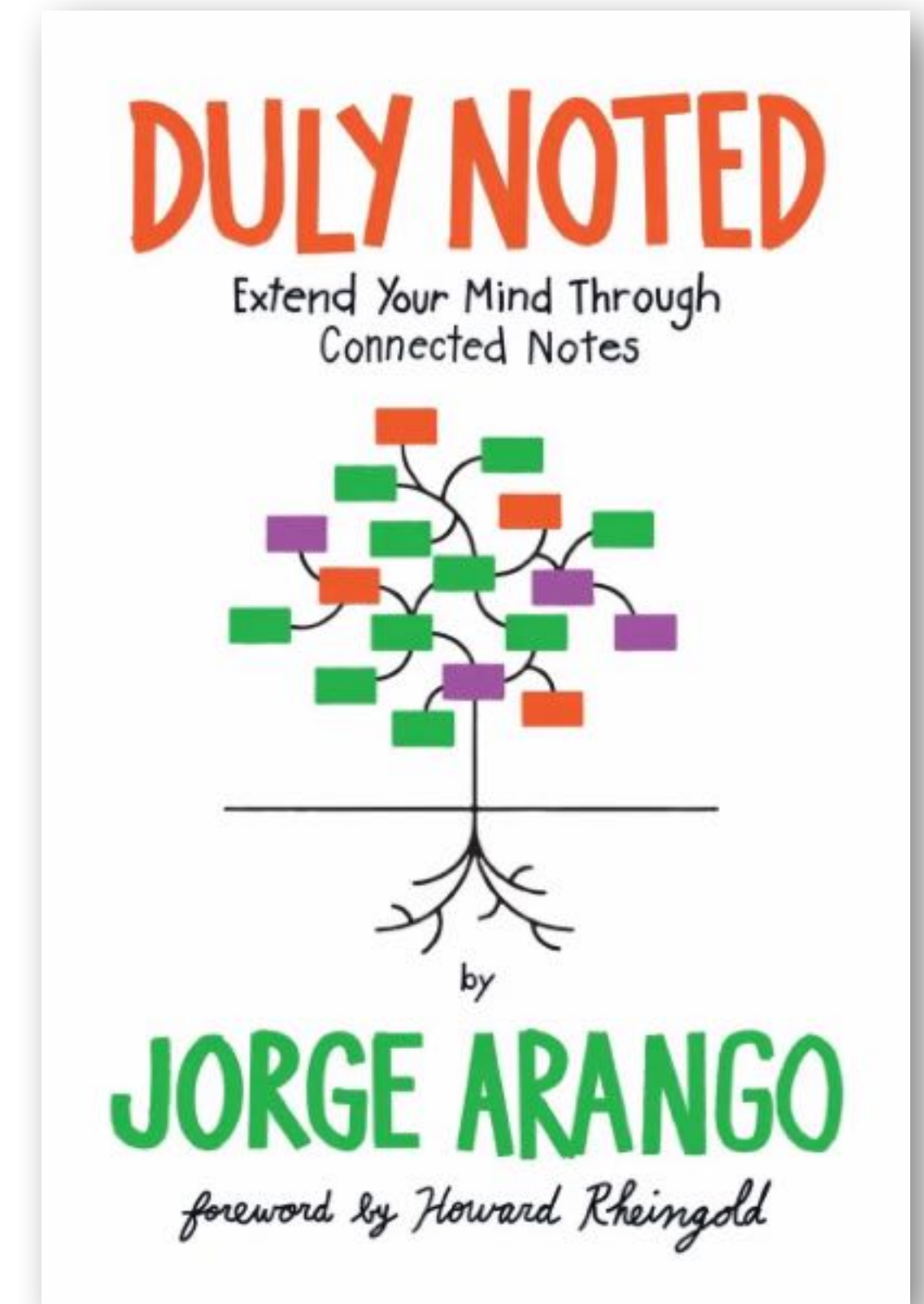
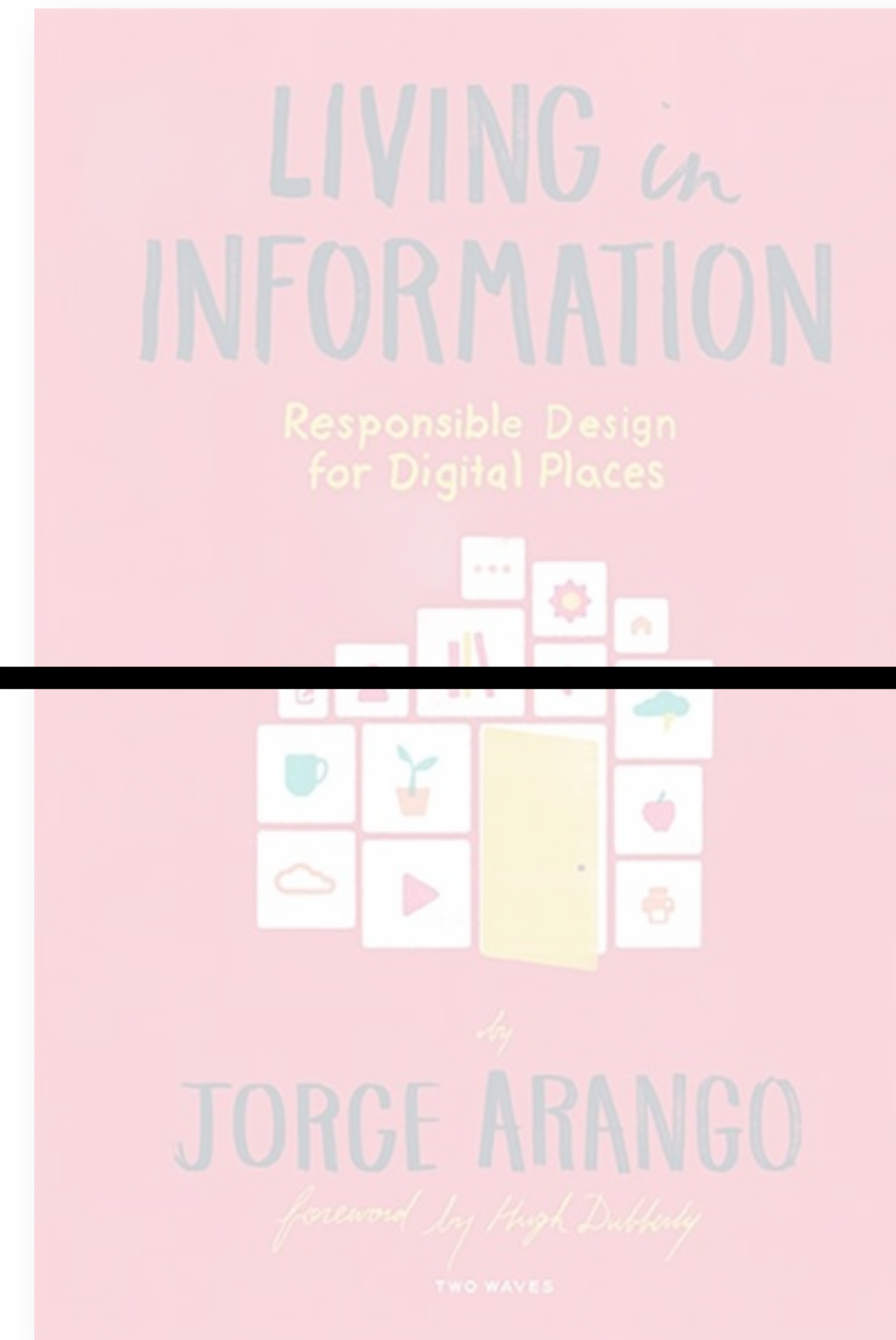
Today, we'll focus on the two most recent, which were net new.



We'll pay special attention to *Duly Noted*.

Many of the ideas we'll cover today are in this book.

This one



Louie
Ad Pip

Most ATP 1000
R. NADAL = 19



★ **GRAND SLAMS**

MOST TITLES - R. FEDERER = 16

GRAND SLAM - R. LAVER = 2
- D. BUDGE = 1

CAREER GRAND SLAM - A. AGASSI
- R. FEDERER
- R. NADAL

CAREER GOLDEN SLAM - A. AGASSI
- R. NADAL



Most WEEKS N°1
COMBINED: P. SAMPRAS = 286
CONSECUTIVE: R. FEDERER = 237



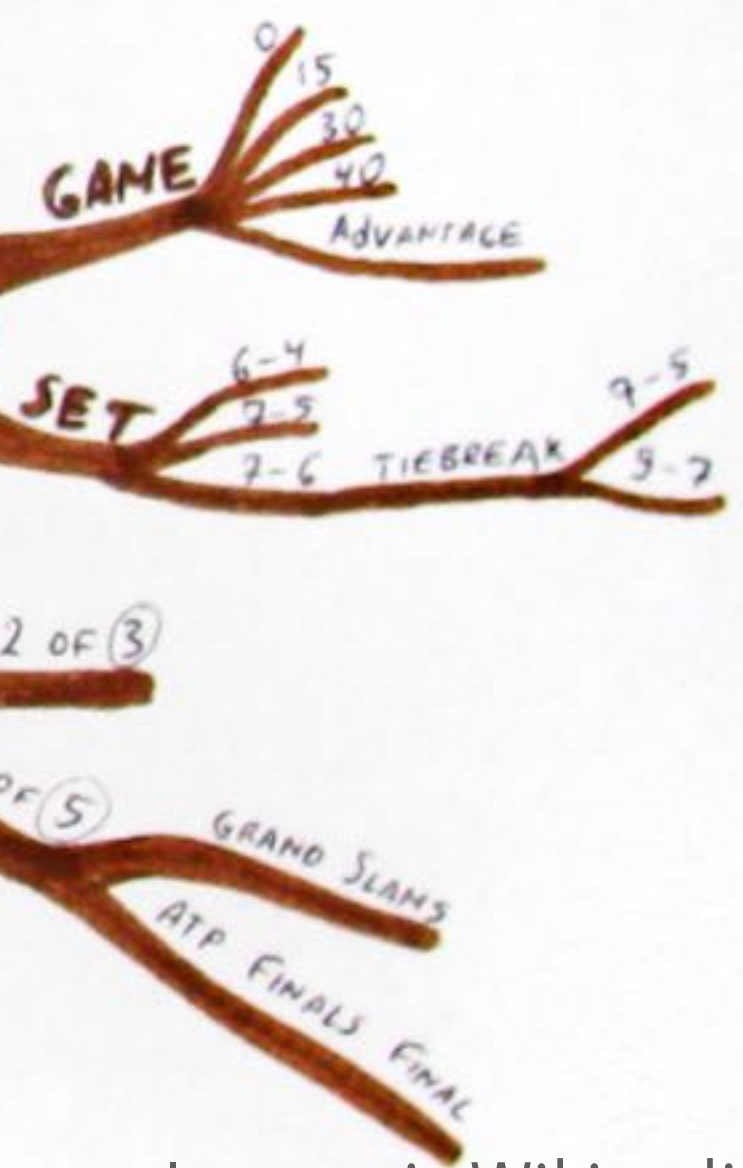
= FASTEST SERVE =
I. KARLOVIC = 251 kph

Most ACES
SEASON: G. IVANISEVIC = 1477
MATCH: J. ISNER = 113

✓ LONGEST MATCH
TIME 11:05 h!
J. ISNER: 6 3 6⁷ 7⁷ 70
N. MAHUT: 4 6 7³ 6³ 68

6:3, 5:7, 7:6

SCORING



WINNING STREAKS
ALL: G. VILAS = 46
GRASS: R. FEDERER = 65
HARD: R. FEDERER = 56
CLAY: R. NADAL = 81

Most TITLES
ALL: J. CONNORS = 109
GRASS: R. FEDERER = 11
HARD: A. AGASSI = 46
CLAY: G. VILAS = 45

SURFACES

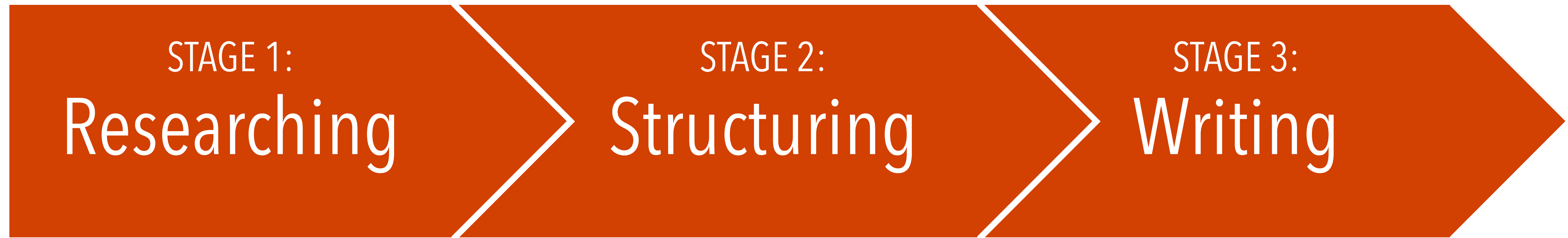


Thinking > 

We think with things.

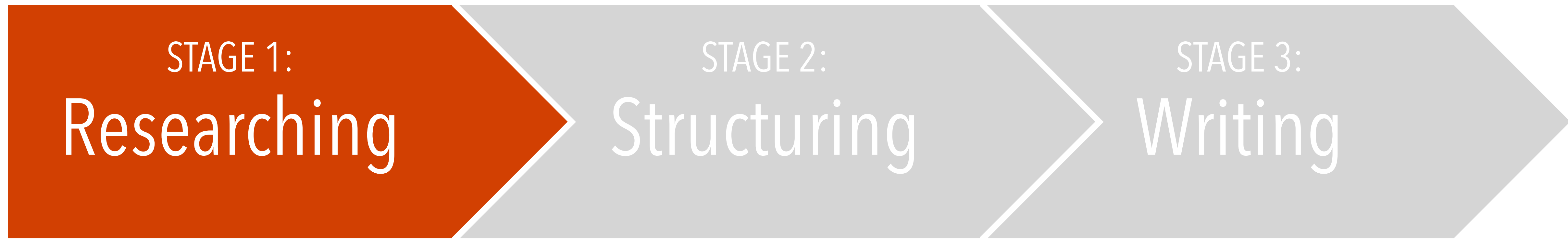
Three stages of the authoring process.

(Remember: we're talking nonfiction!)



Three stages of the authoring process.

(Remember: we're talking nonfiction!)



2018-12-19 — 2019-01-15
2018-10-21 - 2018-12-18
2018-09-13 — 2018-10-28
2018-08-10 — 2018-09-12
2018-07-02 — 2018-08-10

2018-04-17 — 2018-05-15
2018-03-16 — 2018-04-17
2018-02-02 — 2018-03-15
2017-12-27 — 2018-02-01
2017-11-05 — 2017-12-25
2017-10-06 — 2017-11-08
2017-08-15 — 2017-10-06
2017-06-14 — 2017-08-14
2017-05-15 — 2017-06-16
2017-03-10 — 2017-04-13
2017-02-20 — 2017-03-10
2017-02-05 — 2017-02-19
2017-01-11 — 2017-05-15
2017-01-12 — 2017-02-03
2016-11-18 — 2017-01-12
2016-10-17 — 2016-11-08
2016-09-18 — 2016-10-17
2016-08-14 — 2016-09-18
2016-07-05 — 2016-08-13
2016-02-01 — 2016-06-29
2015-10-30 — 2016-01-27
2015-03-10 — 2015-10-27
2013-09-25 — 2015-03-09
2012-02-09 — 2013-03-23
2007-11-16 — 2008-12-31
051228 - 060811
2006-08-11 — 2007-11-16

2005
Franklin Covey

David K. Reynolds, Ph.D.
THE TAC
SEX & I
REID
Sogyal Rinpoche
Lou Marinoff
JO
CAN
|puo
Nisk
KIT
P

TAB IV

The image shows a complex cryptographic table, likely a cipher machine or a cipher table, labeled "TAB IV". The table is divided into several sections, each containing a grid of letters and numbers. The top section is labeled "TAB IV" and contains a grid of letters (A-M) and numbers (1-26). The bottom section is a large, rectangular frame with a grid of letters (A-M) and numbers (1-26). The left side of the frame is a large, rectangular frame with a grid of letters (A-M) and numbers (1-26). The right side of the frame is a large, rectangular frame with a grid of letters (A-M) and numbers (1-26). The entire device is mounted on a base with several drawers or compartments at the bottom.

The screenshot shows a Notion workspace with a sidebar on the left containing various icons for navigation. The main content area displays a list of quotes, each preceded by a 'Quote -' label. The quotes are:

- Quote - Strategy is an integrated set ...
- Quote - The goal is not to take notes
- Quote - Like fingers pointing to the ...
- Quote - In an information age
- Quote - If you can't learn, you can't t...
- Quote - If you don't produce, you wo...
- Quote - A large work is difficult
- Quote - Not knowing which to use, o...
- Quote - Searching amid a chaos of jo...
- Quote - Discarding and forgetting
- Quote - Making money is art
- Quote - Apple's goal isn't to make m...
- Quote - Money is like gasoline during...

Below the list of quotes, there is a section titled 'References' which contains a single link:

- [2022-04-21 Dan Hill videoconference](#)

At the bottom of the page, there is a status bar showing '47 words 3'.

[illegible]

The screenshot shows a dual-monitor setup with a digital note-taking application. The left monitor displays a list of notes, with 'Hypertext (book)' selected. The right monitor shows a sidebar with a project hierarchy and a list of documents. The selected document is 'Hypertext (book)', which contains a paragraph about the book's significance and a paragraph about its content.

Left Monitor: Note List

Name	Modified	Kind
Information Behaviour An Interdisciplinary Perspective	10/8/22, 8:43 AM	Mark...n Text
Figure It Out	10/6/22, 3:45 PM	Mark...n Text
Serendipity and information seeking	10/6/22, 8:33 AM	Mark...n Text
Information Systems and the Stimulation of Creativity	10/5/22, 11:26 AM	Mark...n Text
Create Your Own Economy	10/5/22, 9:15 AM	Mark...n Text
Seeing What Others Don't	9/26/22, 7:18 PM	Mark...n Text
Hypertext and Cognition	9/17/22, 8:02 PM	Mark...n Text
Hypertext & Hypermedia	9/16/22, 8:59 PM	Mark...n Text
Hypertext (book)	9/16/22, 8:23 PM	Mark...n Text
How the World Really Works	9/12/22, 6:19 PM	Mark...n Text
Inventor of the Future	9/5/22, 1:07 PM	Mark...n Text

Hypertext (book)
2013-01-26 Hypertext

Created: 2013-01-26
Saturday, March 12, 2016
11:45 AM

By George P. Landow

This book had been on my reading queue for more than twenty years. Finally finished it in preparation for the IAS presentation. Wish I had read it earlier, but I think I wouldn't have gotten as much out of it as I did now.

The book covers how hypertext (pre-web, in this case), makes manifest many of the concepts discussed by critical theorists like Derrida, Barthes, Lyotard, Baudrillard, etc. Particularly useful in understanding the changes in power relationships between the different agents involved in textuality: the reader, author, and publisher, the educator, the lawmaker, etc. Also gave the reference to what will probably be the next book I read: Foucault's "Order of Things".

Right Monitor: Sidebar

Projects

- litnotes
 - Slipbox > Slipbox

Documents

- Hypertext (book)
 - Slipbox > Slipbox > litnotes
- 2013-01-26 Hypertext
 - Projects > Projects
- Foucault's Pendulum
 - Slipbox > Slipbox > litnotes
- Hypertext & Hypermedia
 - Slipbox > Slipbox > litnotes
- hypertext
 - Slipbox > Slipbox
- Language In Thought And Action By SI Hayakawa
 - Slipbox > Slipbox > litnotes
- 2022-05-10 Information 2
 - Projects > Projects
- 2022-05-10 Information
 - Projects > Projects
- A Conversation With Alan Kay - ACM Queue
 - Slipbox > Slipbox > _readwise > articles
- Media Lab's New Head MIT Technology Review
 - Slipbox > Slipbox > _readwise > articles
- Content Strategy for Mobile
 - Slipbox > Slipbox > litnotes

Three stages of the authoring process.

(Remember: we're talking nonfiction!)

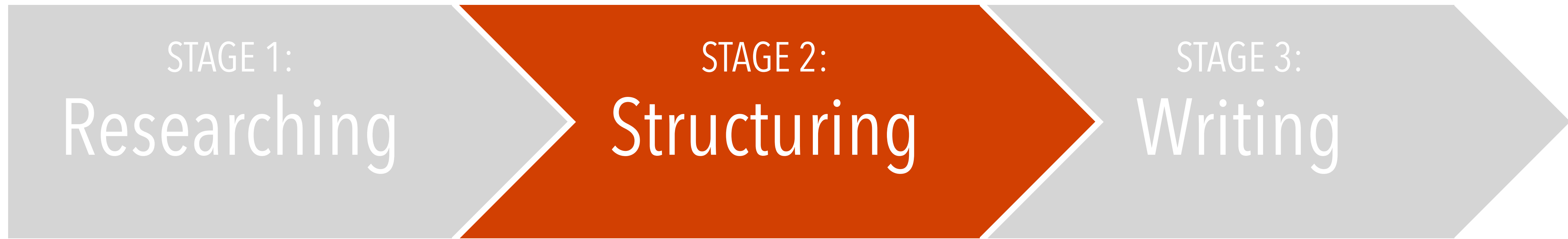




Photo by [Hans-Peter Gauster](#) on [Unsplash](#)



Photo: [Justin Lane/Los Angeles Times](#)

Map: Notes

Duly Noted

Notes

Duly Noted.tbx — Edited

Outline: Duly Noted

Introduction

Quote - We must all regard ourselves as information processors

What's different now: science

What's different now: the hyperlink

Richard Feynman's notebook

Not for everybody!

The book's goal

What's different now: new tools

Manage expectations

Define terms and bound scope

Embodied mind vs. brain

1. A day in the life of the mind

first day of class story

Current system is a far cry from the Trapper Keeper

My current system

In the course of a regular day...

Journaling after waking up

Meeting invitation

Notes when I'm in a call or a meeting

What does a good note-taking system look like?

New contact

Speed, commitments

Preparing for class

Preparing to write a newsletter

Notes when I'm out and about

Notes when browsing

Finding the article

Illustrate the use of smart agents

Illustrate the use of the inbox

Illustrate tagging

Re-visit reading; consult highlights and marginalia

A to-do from email

Leaving a sticky note for my wife

Outlining with Tinderbox

My days aren't usually this packed — conflated for your benefit

Summary

This is part of my system, yours will be different

Describe my needs

It depends on your needs and what you want to do

Current as of April of 2022; system will have changed when you read this

Illustrate somebody else's story

I am the API

Recap contrast with Trapper Keeper

2. What is a note?

Funes et Memoriosa

Why we take notes

Not just for remembering

Note-taking for learning

Note-taking as a way of figuring

How we take notes

Paper and pencil (or pen)

Sticky notes

Digital files

Specialized formats

Taking photographs

Recording a voice note

Too many formats

What do notes do for us?

Help us remember

Help us communicate

Help us evolve ideas

Get stuff out of our heads

In sum, help us think better

What does it mean to build knowledge?

Starting a conversation with your self

Notes as units for capturing knowledge

Knowledge vs. information

What is a note?

Etymology of "note"

Notes vs. non-notes

Kinds of notes

Marginalia

History of note-taking

Cave paintings

Hypomnema

Waste books

Commonplace books

Paper used to be expensive

Digital is a new type of thing

Early computer note taking

Memex

Computer filesystems

Enter the hyperlink

Relational databases

3. A note-taking framework

Thinking beyond notes

A series of places

Satisficing

Systems thinking

Minimization

Interoperability

Start where you are

Disaggregation — The UNIX approach

The right means depends on what you want to do

Workflow capture / sort / process

How to choose system components tools

Small pieces, loosely joined

To-do app

Overview of note-taking methods

The note-taking "solution space"?

second brain

GTD

information gardens

Zettelkasten

Cornell notes

Visual techniques

The meta-framework

capture → sort → process

mode shift

Centaur chess

Modes of notetaking

Note-taking is inconvenient

An overview of common PKM frameworks

One size doesn't fit all

Tools vs. practices

A trustworthy system

Modes of working

embodiment / thinking in the world

Tools + practices

Writing on the sand

We think by using our environments

BYOD

Notebooks

4. Capture

Archive in the moment

Capture in the moment

Analog vs.

Note granularity

Content by straight ten outlines, in tables, etc.

The act of capturing anchors our thoughts

Don't let it thought pa

How to make sense of what you're reading

To remind we heard

Photography

Sticky note

Photography: the camera you have with you

Butterfly c

Throwaway notes vs. permanent notes

Idea gener

How to create long-lasting notes

digital vs. a notes

Outlining with Tinderbox

Tags

Styles

Spacing

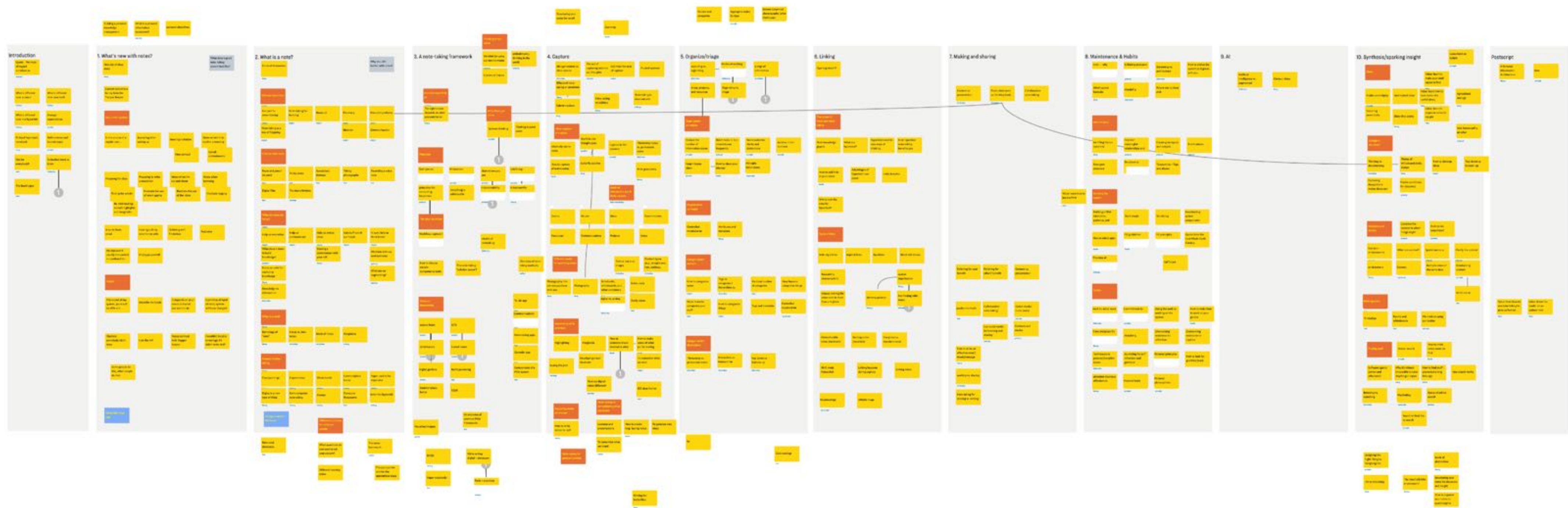
Lists

Show this screenshot. Make it self-referential — show, don't tell!

Inbound Links (0)

Outbound Links (0)

Suggested



Who is the book for?

- Scholars
- Knowledge workers
- Exploring beyond Evernote

PRINCIPLES and PRACTICES

OPEN QUESTIONS

- Epigraphs - Y/N?
- Center examples on Obsidian?

EXERCISES

- Encourage the reader to take notes about the book itself
- Have this as a thread throughout the book.

PENDBAG

- Revisit each chapter
- Pull out 3 main points
- Contrarian/provocative takes

Can't end on the speculative stuff

Half the length of a regular chapter

DISTINCTIONS

- Evergreen ~~and~~ transitory
- Remembering ~~and~~ Generating

Some of what we written here might move to ch. 2

This fig needs work

Half the length of a regular chapter

Introduction

What is this book about and who is it for?

Notes aren't new - but hyperlinks are

Living a life of the mind / Knowledge work

The point of tools for thought

Structure of the book

What is a note?

What is a note?

TrapperKeeper

What is a note? / Anatomy of a note

How do you take notes now?

Types of notes

Install Obsidian

What are notes for?

TrapperKeeper code

No know-how in the intro - but perhaps mention Obsidian? Setup.

Looking to expand the reader's understanding of what notes can be.

First principles

What do I need to know to get started?

Note-taking first principles

Start writing a note for this book

Different media for different needs

Markdown

Minimally viable notes

A note-taking framework

How do I build a "knowledge garden"?

Don't think notes, think systems

Inventory your current setup

Plan for a knowledge garden

Compare your current setup to the model

Principles for building a good knowledge garden

Principles that are useful regardless of what tool you're using

Capturing notes

How do I keep ideas from getting away?

Capture modalities

Templates

Create a template

Put everything in the right index

Readwise and Zotero

Is there room to highlight both Nicole & Elizabeth Filipps?

Organizing notes

How can I ensure I find stuff later?

Piles, files, and tags

Clear your inbox

Metadata

Add metadata to your template

Tips and recommendations

Connecting notes

How do I connect related ideas?

Indra's net?

Hypertext

How to make a link

Types of links

How to use transclusion

Tips and recommendations

Obsidian canvas view

Move Matuschak here? Maggie Appleton Smith? Anne Laure Le Guiff on silos? Jerry Michalski on The Brain

Sparking insights

How do I generate new ideas?

What is an insight?

Tools for thinking vs. producing

Where do you think?

Strategies for sparking insights

Obsidian canvas view

Chapter not flowing properly - start with insights? Or tools?

Making and sharing

How do I share what I've learned?

The role of feedback

The production process

Write a review of the book

Non-linear writing

Obsidian publish

Who is the most productive person I know? Could I highlight them?

Housekeeping

How do I keep my garden productive?

Maintaining the garden

The scanner in your pocket

Evolving the garden

Tag management

Building good habits

Barbabe code

Thinking augmentation

What does the future hold for smart note-taking?

Note-taking in the early modern era

Collaboration

AI

ChatGPT

Everything is a remix

Review your notes on the book - take it forward

How will you remix this book? What evergreen notes endured for you?

Epilogue - A lifelong endeavor

Why should I continue down this path?

The life of the mind

Political implications

The book as a snapshot in time

TrapperKeeper code

Good wishes for the reader

It's all informative architecture anyways

Who is the book for?

- Scholars
- Knowledge workers
- Exploring beyond Evernote

PRINCIPLES and PRACTICES

OPEN QUESTIONS

- Epigraphs - Y/N?
- Center examples on Obsidian?

EXERCISES

- Encourage the reader to take notes about the book itself
- Have this as a thread throughout the book.

PENDBAG

- Revisit each chapter
- Pull out 3 main points
- Contrarian/provocative takes

Can't end on the speculative stuff

Half the length of a regular chapter

DISTINCTIONS

- Evergreen ~~and~~ Transitory
- Remembering ~~and~~ Generating

Some of what we written here might move to ch. 2

This fig needs work

Half the length of a regular chapter

Introduction	What is a note?	First principles	A note-taking framework	Capturing notes	Organizing notes	Connecting notes	Sparking insights	Making and sharing	Housekeeping	Thinking augmentation	Epilogue - A lifelong endeavor
What is this book about and who is it for?	What is a note?	What do I need to know to get started?	How do I build a "knowledge garden"?	How do I keep ideas from getting away?	How can I ensure I find stuff later?	How do I connect related ideas?	How do I generate new ideas?	How do I share what I've learned?	How do I keep my garden productive?	What does the future hold for smart note-taking?	Why should I continue down this path?
Notes aren't new - but hyperlinks are	TrapperKeeper					India's net?		Start by laying out the point of sharing		Note-taking in the early modern era	The life of the mind
Living a life of the mind / Knowledge work	What is a note? / Anatomy of a note	Note-taking first principles	Don't think notes, think systems	Capture modalities	Piles, files, and tags	Hypertext	What is an insight?	The role of feedback	Maintaining the garden	Collaboration	Political implications
The point of tools for thought	How do you take notes now?	Start writing a note for this book	Inventory your current setup		Clear your inbox	How to make a link			The scanner in your pocket		The book as a snapshot in time
Structure of the book	Types of notes	It's ok to go back and forth but beware silos	Different media for different needs	Remembering and sharing function app	Plan for a knowledge garden	Templates	Metadata	Types of links	Tools for thinking vs. producing	The production process	Evolving the garden
	Initial Obsidian		Markdown	Compare your current setup to the model	Start by having reader consider why they want to do this?	Create a template	Add metadata to your template	How to use transclusion	Where do you think?	Write a review of the book	Tag management
	What are notes for?	Remembering and thinking	Minimally viable notes	If taking don't view, but do we transition to text?	Principles for building a good knowledge garden	Put everything in the right inbox	Tips and recommendations one	Tips and recommendations one	Strategies for sparking insights	Non-linear writing	Building good habits
					Readwise and Zotero			Obsidian canvas view	Obsidian publish		Maggie Appleton Smith? Anne. Love?
	TrapperKeeper code				Funes code			India code	Periodic table code		Sarabhai code
											Erasmus code ??

No know-how in the intro - but perhaps mention Obsidian? Setup.

Looking to expand the reader's understanding of what notes can be.

Principles that are useful regardless of what tool you're using

Is there room to highlight both Nicole & Elizabeth Filipi?

Move Matuschak here? Maggie Appleton Smith? Anne Love Le Guiff on silos? Jerry Michalski on The Brain

Chapter not flowing properly - start with insights? Or tools?

Who is the most productive person I know? Could I highlight them?

Start a new note

WHO IS THE BOOK FOR?

- Scholars
- Knowledge workers
- Exploring beyond Evernote

PENDING

- Revisit each chapter
- Pull out 3 main points
- Contrarian/provocative takes

PRINCIPLES and PRACTICES

OPEN QUESTIONS

- Epigraphs - Y/N?
- Center examples on Obsidian?

EXERCISES

- Encourage the reader to take notes about the book itself
- Have this as a thread throughout the book.

Half the length of a regular chapter

DISTINCTIONS

- Evergreen Δ transitory
- Remembering Δ Generating

Some of what I've written here might move to ch. 4

Introduction

What is this book about and who is it for?

Notes aren't new - but hyperlinks are

Living a life of the mind / Knowledge work

The point of tools for thought

1 What is a note?

What is a note?

TrapperKeeper

What is a note? / Anatomy of a note

How do you take notes now?

2 First principles

What do I need to know to get started?

Note-taking first principles

Start writing a note for this book

3 A note-taking framework

How do I build a "knowledge garden"?

Don't think notes; think systems

Inventory your current setup

4 Capturing notes

How do I keep ideas from getting away?



Capture modalities



5 Organizing notes

How can I ensure I find stuff later?

Piles, files, and tags

Clear your inbox

6 Connecting notes

How do I connect related ideas?

Indra's net

Hyperlinks

How to make a link

It's ok to go

Remembering Δ

- Who is the book for?
- Scholars
 - Knowledge workers
 - Exploring beyond Evernote

PRINCIPLES and PRACTICES

OPEN QUESTIONS

- Epigraphs - Y/N?
- Counter examples on Obsidian?

EXERCISES

- Encourage the reader to take notes about the book itself
- Have this as a thread throughout the book.

- PENDING-
- Revisit each chapter
 - Pull out 3 main points
 - Contrarian/provocative takes

Half the length of a regular chapter

DISTINCTIONS

- Evergreen ~~and~~ transitory
- Remembering ~~and~~ Generating

Some of what we written here might move to ch. 2

Introduction

What is this book about and who is it for?

Notes aren't new - but hyperlinks are

Living a life of the mind / Knowledge work

The point of tools for thought

Structure of the book

What is a note?

What is a note?

TrapperKeeper

What is a note? / Anatomy of a note

How do you take notes now?

Types of notes

Install Obsidian

What are notes for?

TrapperKeeper coda

No how-to in the intro - but perhaps mention Obsidian? Setup.

Looking to expand the reader's understanding of what notes can be.

First principles

What do I need to know to get started?

Note-taking first principles

Start writing a note for this book

Different media for different needs

Markdown

Minimally viable notes

A note-taking framework

How do I build a "knowledge garden"?

Don't think notes, think systems

Inventory your current setup

Plan for a knowledge garden

Compare your current setup to the model

Principles for building a good knowledge garden

Principles that are useful regardless of what tool you're using

Capturing notes

How do I keep ideas from getting away?

Capture modalities

Templates

Create a template

Put everything in the right inbox

Readwise and Zotero

Funes coda

Is there room to highlight both Nicole & Elizabeth Filips?

Organizing notes

How can I ensure I find stuff later?

Piles, files, and tags

Clear your inbox

Metadata

Add metadata to your template

Tips and recommendations

Connecting notes

How do I connect related ideas?

Indra's net?

Hypertext

How to make a link

Types of links

How to use transclusion

Tips and recommendations

Indra coda

Move Matuschak here? Maggie Appleton Smith? Anne-Laure Le Cunff on silos? Jerry Michalski on The Brain

Sparking insights

How do I generate new ideas?

What is an insight?

Tools for thinking vs. producing

Where do you think?

Strategies for sparking insights

Obsidian canvas view

Periodic table coda

Chapter not flowing properly - start with insights? Or tools?

Making and sharing

How do I share what I've learned?

The role of feedback

The production process

Write a review of the book

Non-linear writing

Obsidian publish

Who is the most productive person I know? Could I highlight them?

Housekeeping

How do I keep my garden productive?

Maintaining the garden

The scanner in your pocket

Evolving the garden

Tag management

Building good habits

Baobabs coda

Thinking augmentation

What does the future hold for smart note-taking?

Note-taking in the early modern era

Collaboration

AI

ChatGPT

Everything is a remix

Review your notes on the book - take it forward

Erasmus coda ??

Nice contrast with modern technologies

NNT instead? Profile Erasmus of Rotterdam
Aeneasius ??

More of what I have heard me principles.

Maggie Appleton Smith? Anne-Laure?

How will you remix this book? What evergreen notes emerged for you?

Epilogue - A lifelong endeavor

Why should I continue down this path?

The life of the mind

Political implications

The book as a snapshot in time

TrapperKeeper coda

Good wishes for the reader

It's all information architecture anyways

Half the length of a regular chapter

Can't end on the speculative stuff

Start a new note

We think with structures.

The periodic table suggested elements that hadn't yet been discovered.



Dmitri Mendeleev
1834-1907

Group →	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Period ↓																		
1	1 H																	2 He
2	3 Li	4 Be											5 B	6 C	7 N	8 O	9 F	10 Ne
3	11 Na	12 Mg											13 Al	14 Si	15 P	16 S	17 Cl	18 Ar
4	19 K	20 Ca	21 Sc	22 Ti	23 V	24 Cr	25 Mn	26 Fe	27 Co	28 Ni	29 Cu	30 Zn	31 Ga	32 Ge	33 As	34 Se	35 Br	36 Kr
5	37 Rb	38 Sr	39 Y	40 Zr	41 Nb	42 Mo	43 Tc	44 Ru	45 Rh	46 Pd	47 Ag	48 Cd	49 In	50 Sn	51 Sb	52 Te	53 I	54 Xe
6	55 Cs	56 Ba	57 La *	72 Hf	73 Ta	74 W	75 Re	76 Os	77 Ir	78 Pt	79 Au	80 Hg	81 Tl	82 Pb	83 Bi	84 Po	85 At	86 Rn
7	87 Fr	88 Ra	89 Ac *	104 Rf	105 Db	106 Sg	107 Bh	108 Hs	109 Mt	110 Ds	111 Rg	112 Cn	113 Nh	114 Fl	115 Mc	116 Lv	117 Ts	118 Og
				* 58 Ce	59 Pr	60 Nd	61 Pm	62 Sm	63 Eu	64 Gd	65 Tb	66 Dy	67 Ho	68 Er	69 Tm	70 Yb	71 Lu	
				* 90 Th	91 Pa	92 U	93 Np	94 Pu	95 Am	96 Cm	97 Bk	98 Cf	99 Es	100 Fm	101 Md	102 No	103 Lr	

Who is the book for?

- Scholars
- Knowledge workers
- Exploring beyond Evernote

PRINCIPLES and PRACTICES

OPEN QUESTIONS

- Epigraphs - Y/N?
- Counter examples on Obsidian?

EXERCISES

- Encourage the reader to take notes about the book itself
- Have this as a thread throughout the book.

PENDING

- Revisit each chapter
- Pull out 3 main points
- Contrarian/provocative takes

Half the length of a regular chapter

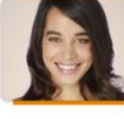
DISTINCTIONS

- Evergreen ~~and~~ transitory
- Remembering ~~and~~ Generating

Some of what we written here might move to ch. 2

Can't end on the speculative stuff

Half the length of a regular chapter

Introduction	What is a note?	First principles	A note-taking framework	Capturing notes	Organizing notes	Connecting notes	Sparking insights	Making and sharing	Housekeeping	Thinking augmentation	Epilogue - A lifelong endeavor
What is this book about and who is it for?	What is a note?	What do I need to know to get started?	How do I build a "knowledge garden"?	How do I keep ideas from getting away?	How can I ensure I find stuff later?	How do I connect related ideas?	How do I generate new ideas?	How do I share what I've learned?	How do I keep my garden productive?	What does the future hold for smart note-taking?	Why should I continue down this path?
Notes aren't new - but hyperlinks are	TrapperKeeper					Indra's net?		Start by laying out the point of sharing		Note-taking in the early modern era	The life of the mind
Living a life of the mind / Knowledge work	What is a note? / Anatomy of a note	Note-taking first principles	Don't think notes; think systems	Capture modalities	Piles, files, and tags	Hypertext	What is an insight?	The role of feedback	Maintaining the garden	Collaboration	Political implications
The point of tools for thought	How do you take notes now?	Start writing a note for this book	Inventory your current setup		Clear your inbox	How to make a link			The scanner in your pocket		The book as a snapshot in time
Structure of the book	Types of notes	Different media for different needs	Plan for a knowledge garden	Templates	Metadata	Types of links	Tools for thinking vs. producing	The production process	Evolving the garden	AI	TrapperKeeper coda
	Install Obsidian	Markdown	Compare your current setup to the model	Create a template	Add metadata to your template	How to use transclusion	Where do you think?	Write a review of the book	Tag management	ChatGPT	Good wishes for the reader
	What are notes for?	Minimally viable notes	Principles for building a good knowledge garden	Put everything in the right inbox	Tips and recommendations	Tips and recommendations	Strategies for spurring insights	Non-linear writing	Building good habits	Everything is a remix	
				Readwise and Zotero			Obsidian canvas view	Obsidian publish		Review your notes on the book - take it forward	
	TrapperKeeper coda			Funes coda		Indra coda	Periodic table coda		Baobabs coda	Erasmus coda ??	

No how-to in the intro - but perhaps mention Obsidian? Setup.

Looking to expand the reader's understanding of what notes can be.

Principles that are useful regardless of what tool you're using

Is there room to highlight both Nicole & Elizabeth Filips?

Move Matuschak here? Maggie Appleton Smith? Anne Laure Le Guff on silos? Jerry Michalski on The Brain

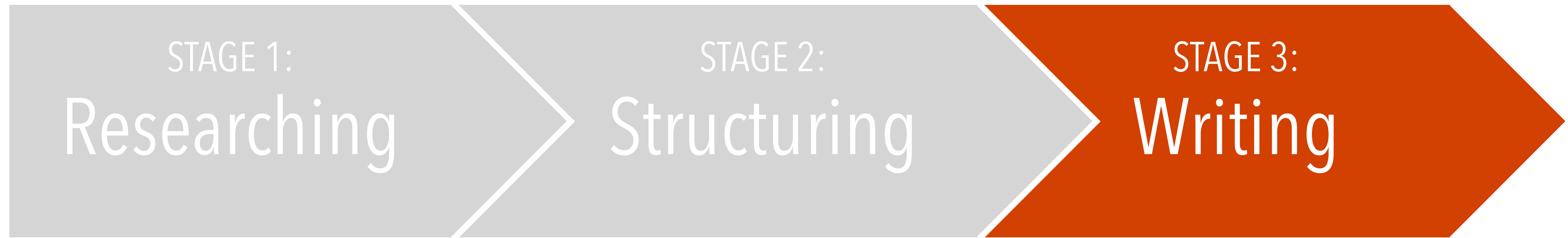
Chapter not flowing properly - start with insights? Or tools?

Who is the most productive person I know? Could I highlight them?

Start a new note

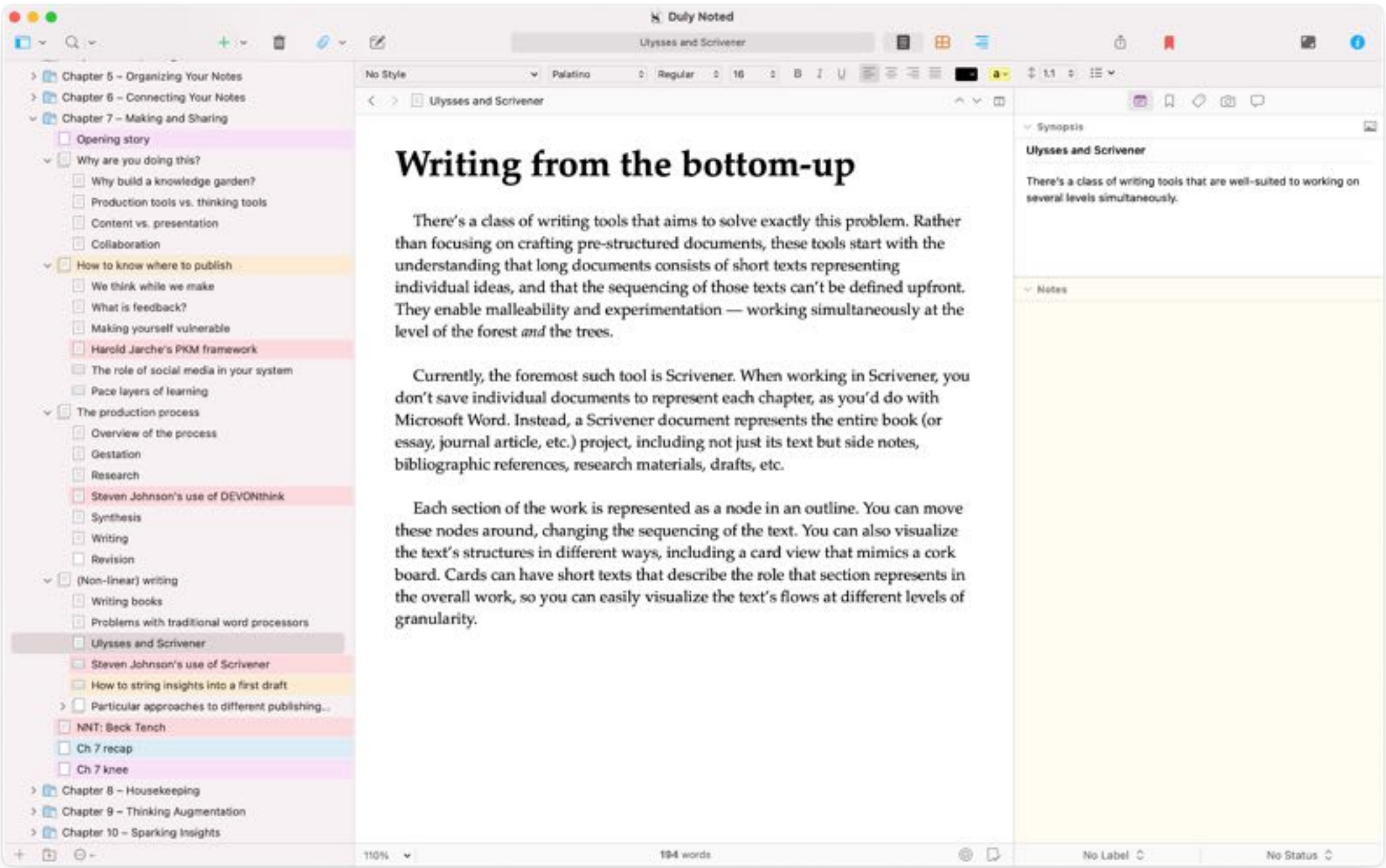
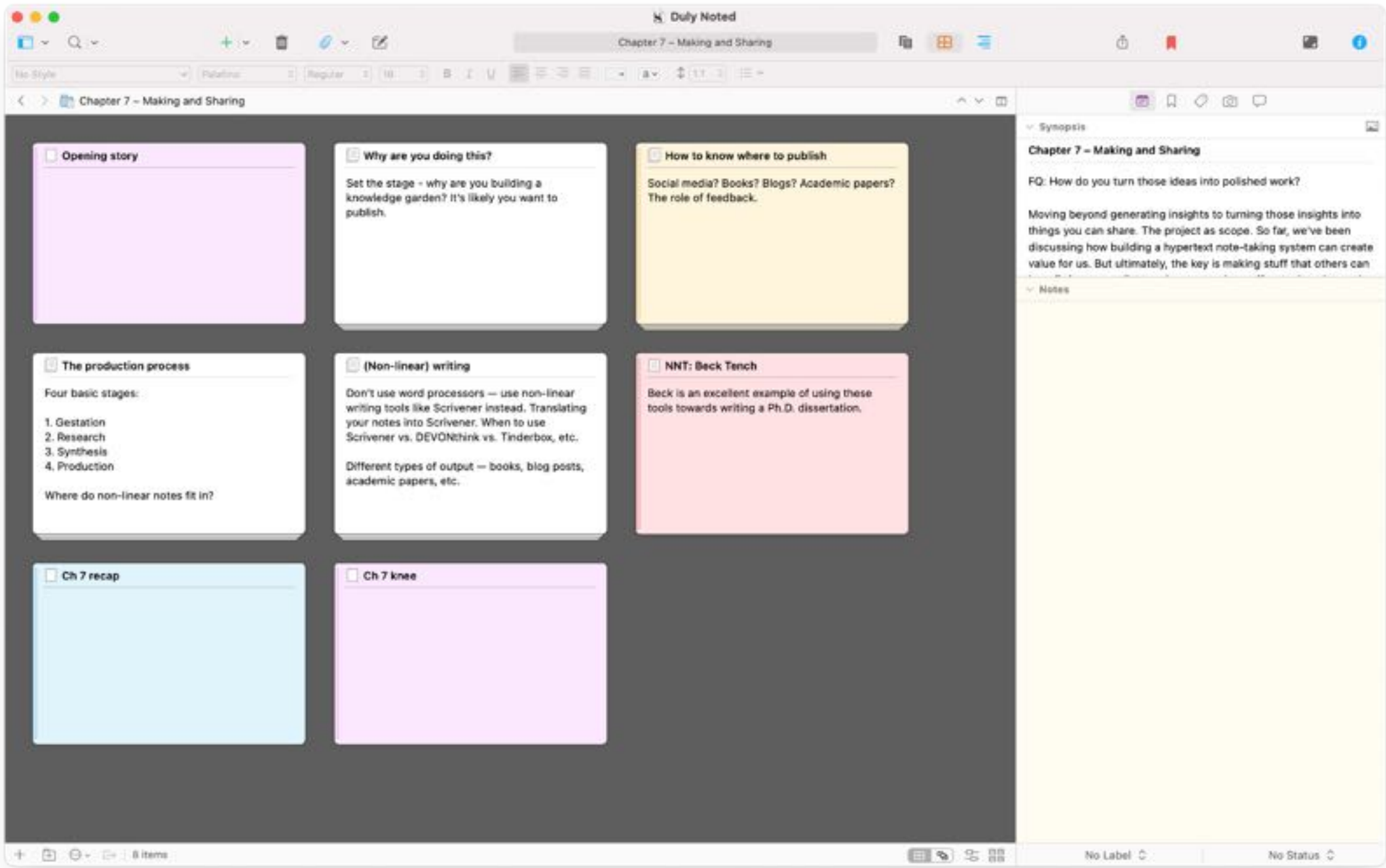
Three stages of the authoring process.

(Remember: we're talking nonfiction!)



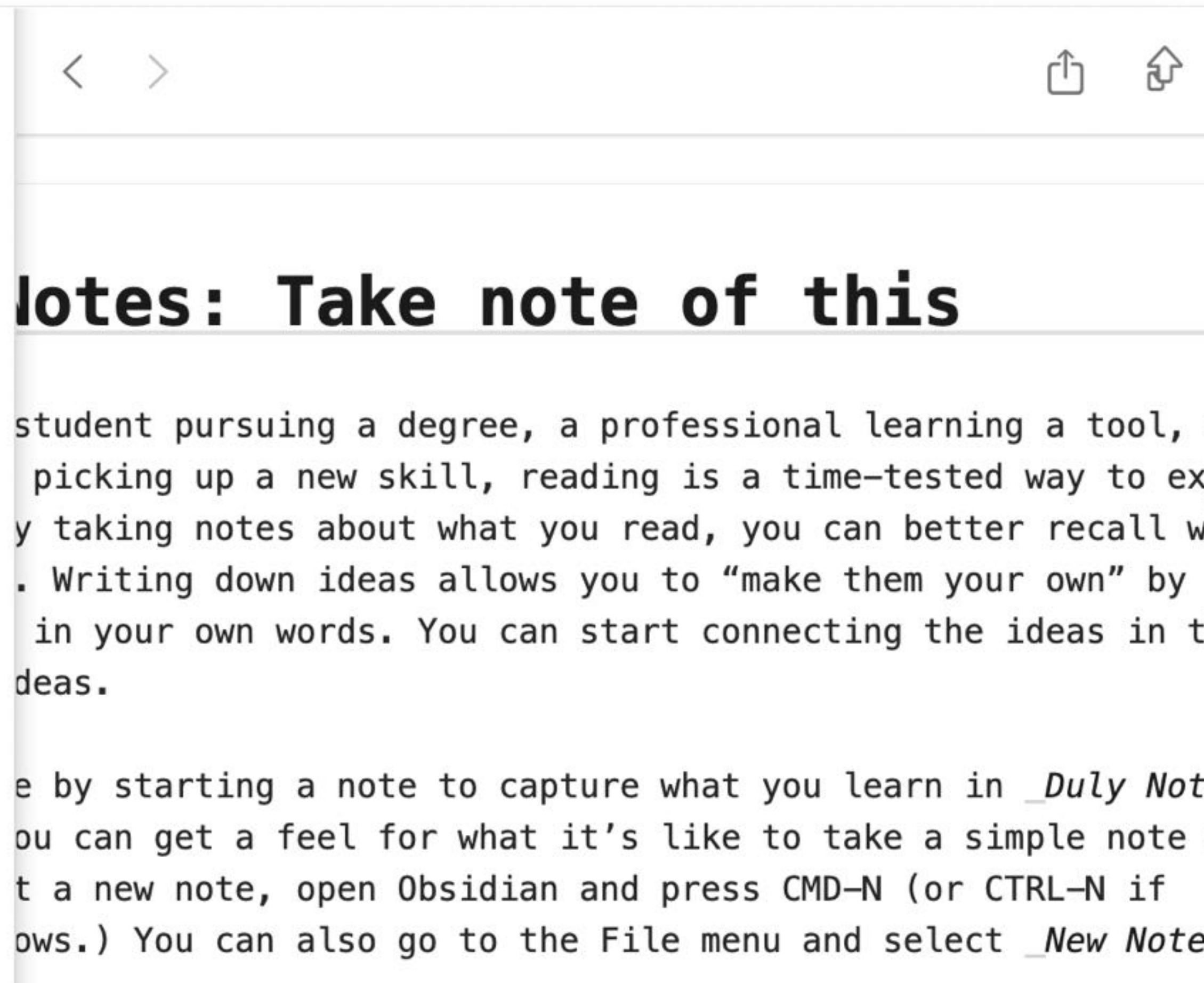
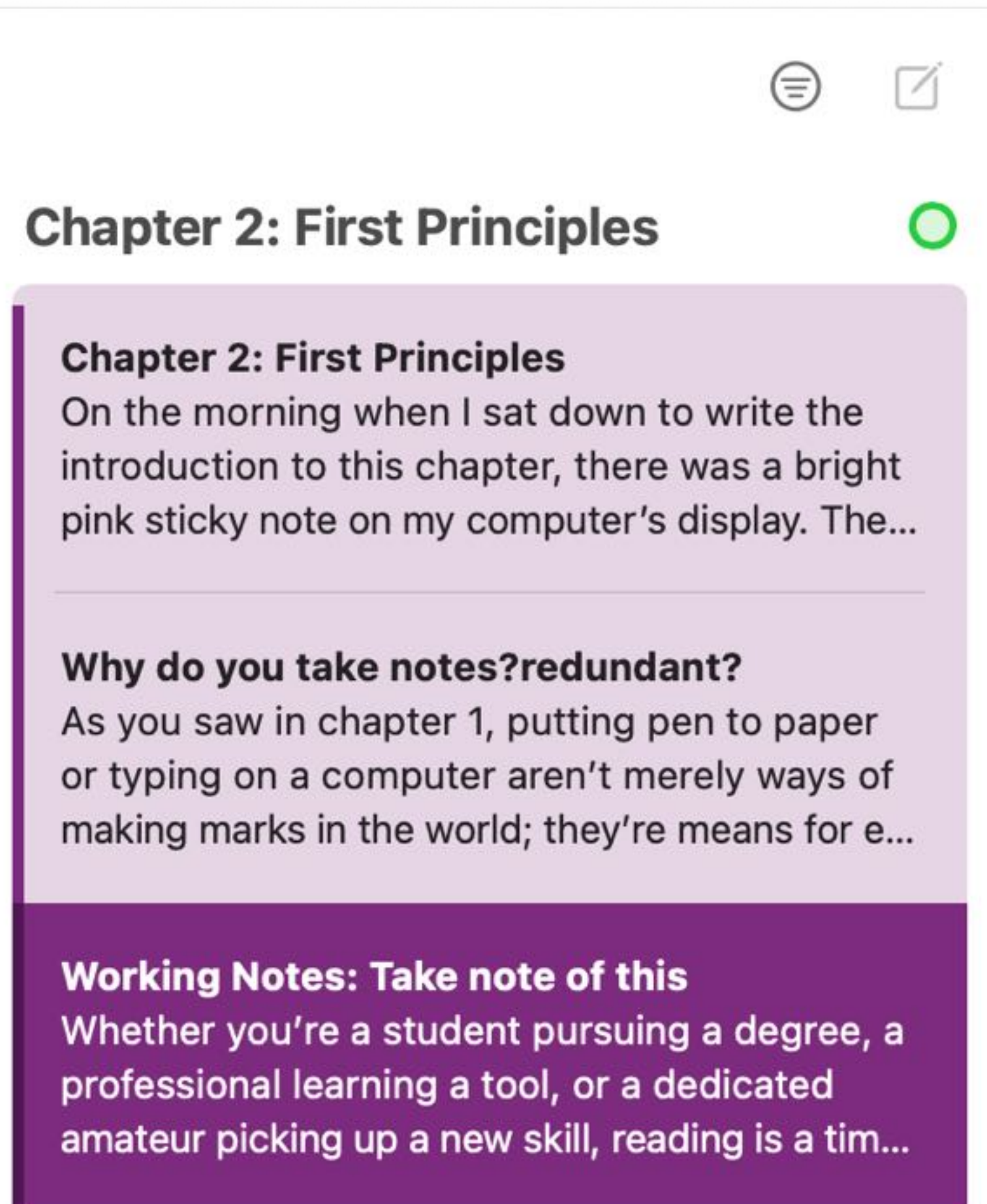
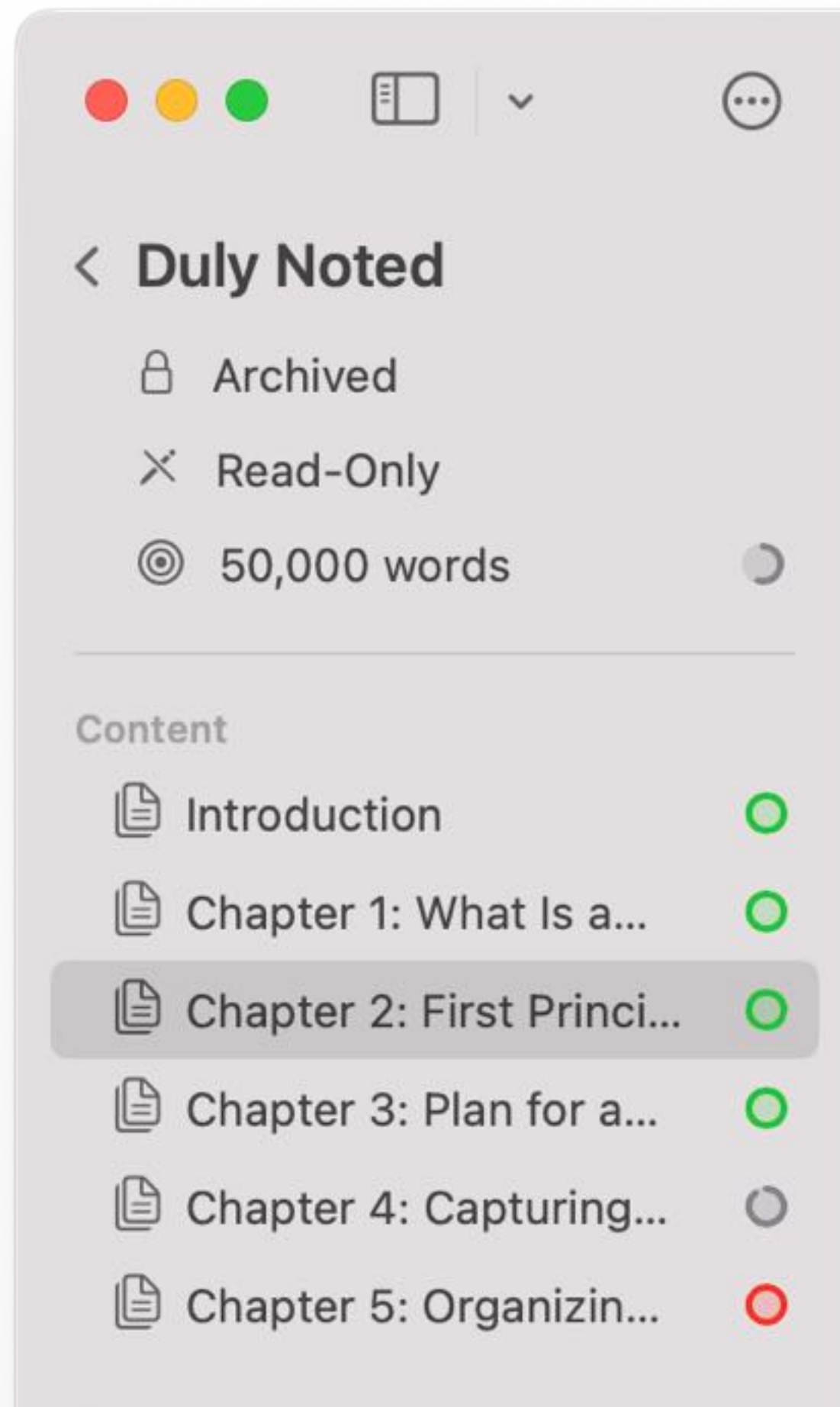
Select tools that support the process.

Scrivener lets you work at different levels of abstraction.



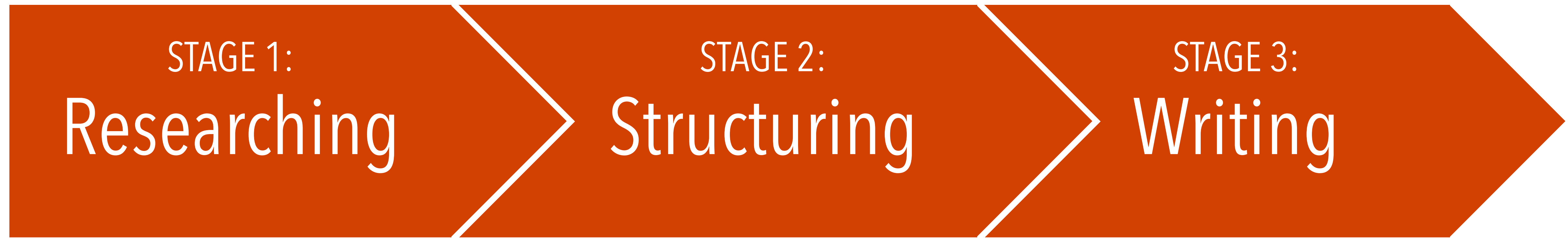
Select tools that support the process.

Ulysses also facilitates exploring alternative structures. Plus, it shows you where you stand vs. your word count targets.



Three stages of the authoring process.

(Remember: we're talking nonfiction!)



Three takeaways:

1. Set up environments that support you
2. Structure first – but be flexible
3. Switch modalities

Sketch Your Mind 2025

Happy writing! 🙏

Jorge Arango
jarango.com/speaking

