I believe that we were force-fed (bad) ideas about writing that caused us to surrender our voices to the ideology of higher-up academics who thought they were preparing us for "upper-level writing—"whatever that means. I imagine this as the dramatic scene from The Little Mermaid when Ursula steals Ariel’s voice. In reality it was as miniscule as being told to never start a sentence with a conjunction, or that a paragraph must be at least four sentences long, or that first-person point-of-view has no place in an academic essay. With these rules came the belief that our ideas were less important than our ability to memorize every single rule of standard formal English.

I don’t think that we should have to invent a duplicate self—one that wears a bowtie and uses flowery words like ‘furthermore’ and ‘moreover—’ in order to gain the approval of the people in charge of our grades. I hope to help writers reclaim their own voices, ideas, and identity in their writing.