Editorial and Introduction

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Writing is a difficult task. It not only requires skill, passion, and perseverance, but also a sort of carelessness. Most certainly, the first draft will be ridden with errors. Most certainly, the first draft will not be the final one. This is all part of the writing process. Too many times, writers—myself included—worry about how the first draft might turn out. Do the words flow coherently? Is this written concisely? This is exactly how we stop ourselves from writing. We are often too worried about perfection that we become too afraid to even start. We forget that mistakes are normal and that especially as writers, we always have the chance to fix them.

I used to think that this issue occurred simply because of a desire to pursue perfection. Yet as I frustrated myself with more and more unfinished drafts and half-baked sentences, I started to realize the underlying reason: others. As writers, we want our work to be acknowledged by others. We want others to praise and recognize the effort and thought poured into our words. We want our future selves to be amazed at and proud of our writing. This is the problem. More often than not, we bend over backwards for people we do not owe anything to. We care about mistakes merely because people expect us to not make any. Yet we forget that part of the writing process *is* the correction and editing. The polishing of ideas and replacements of words all contribute to a final good that is then *and only then* packaged and delivered to the reader. The authors that we encounter do not produce their work in a single sitting. Indeed, Rome was not built in one day! We are not reading their first drafts, but instead a culmination of months of constant fixes, tweaks, and touch-ups. Every project has a beginning, and writing is no different. And thus, I encourage everyone to simply put pen to paper, and with some time, the ink that flows onto the page will come together to form a beautiful painting.

More broadly, I also want to urge everyone to not care about how others will view your writing. Do not conform to what others want you to be. Participate. Everyone has something to say, so speak up. And if you cannot speak, then write. But do not care, and most importantly, do not conform.

We hope you will enjoy reading the culmination of many months of work.
Sincerely,

The Editors