

# 100. What I Learned After 100 Episodes w/ Daniel Dissinger (Transcript)

**Danie Dissinger:** [00:00:00] Hi everyone. Welcome to a very special writing remix episode. It is the 100th episode. Um, truthfully I'm speechless that I'm even recording 100th episode. It is so special and such, it's been an amazing journey as a podcaster, as a teacher as a creator, a writer, um, and just personally to do this podcast.

Um, and today's episode is going to be a solo episode and it's going to be really me talking about what I learned in these hundred episodes. Um, I will tell you that I've learned so much. And before I even do that, I just want to thank everyone who has listened to the podcast, who has reached out and supported, [00:01:00] uh, with really great emails and comments and every guest I ever had on this podcast, every co host, every, um, The conferences, the people I met at, um, CCCCs and at the Southwest Popular Culture Conference that did episode just in the hallway with me, who were just willing to talk, um, everybody out there who has just supported, the writing remix,

And a special thanks to Katie McNay, who I started the podcast with, um, all the way back in 2020. Special thanks goes out to her, uh, for everything that she did in, um, to get the podcast going with me, um, definitely wouldn't be here, uh, as a whole entity as it is without her work, so thank you, uh, big thank you to Katie.

**Daniel Dissinger:** So, writing

**Danie Dissinger:** remix, 100 episodes, what I learned. [00:02:00]

**Daniel Dissinger:** It's,

**Danie Dissinger:** it's a wide

**Daniel Dissinger:** variety of things.

**Danie Dissinger:** Um, but I just, you know, one thing that sticks out to me right away in looking at the entire index of episodes that, um, I've been a part of is that The main thing I learned first is that I know nothing and it is a huge lesson and it is the thing that I feel like keeps me coming back to the microphone.

The curiosity to learn, the, the love of learning, and also the love of Understanding how little I know so that when I go and talk to people I just can just sit there and listen and in writing remix and I've said it on several episodes is like my own personal classroom it's literally the the way that I wish in many ways that I could [00:03:00] have had a classroom meeting people talking to them listening to their stories Listening to, you know, their experiences, having a place to kind of collect all of this knowledge and to continue to, you know, return to it.

Knowing nothing and coming to the microphone with that, uh, with that in my heart, that kind of humility that has taken a lifetime to kind of continue to build, and believe me, I'm still working on that, and that type of humility, that being humble, um, in all my interactions, it's a constant daily work, but it has helped me create me.

a podcast environment to hopefully not just for me to learn, but also for the audience. Um, I, I just like can think about episode 15, uh, drumming a language of love. Um, that is, um, [00:04:00] With Dante Fayel and Tanay Osborne, that, that episode really early on in 2020 was such an amazing episode because it went outside, it was the first time that we took the podcast outside of the kind of classic academy in a way.

Like we were talking to teachers and professors and then we took, um, this episode to talk to, uh, about drumming and to talk about a different type of languaging

**Daniel Dissinger:** and,

**Danie Dissinger:** and it was one of the most inspiring episodes because not only were we able to talk about a whole other type of communicating, we were given an example of it as well.

So if you go back and listen, you'll hear the drumming actually happening. And it was quite a dynamic moment. Um, because a lot of times in the academy, we, we are trained in ways in which as teachers to know And then [00:05:00] also to, in a way, defend that knowledge. And it's always on this way of like,

**Daniel Dissinger:** either wrong or right.

But learning

**Danie Dissinger:** that I know nothing and keeping

**Daniel Dissinger:** that a

**Danie Dissinger:** really good understanding of how little I know has allowed me to kind of truly open up and just listen. And I guess up, you know, that other lesson of listening has been so big because I'm a huge talker and the, and listening is so much a part of podcasting that I never expected, like, The more I learn to be quiet, the more I learn to listen to my guests as much as possible, the more I leave space to kind of have them talk, the more I get out of it, and the more I'm hoping that the audience, you all, get out of it as well, because really, in an episode, episodes where like there are guests, no one's there really to hear [00:06:00] me.

I'm not even there to hear me. I want to hear the guest. And so keeping as a practice of quiet, um, really kind of emphasizes the learning that I can do in the space of knowing nothing. So I feel like for one of the first things that I've learned in a hundred episodes is, is that is how little I know and how much I, and there is to learn and how excited that makes me going on to, you know, what I'm hoping is another a hundred episodes, something that like.

Especially in the history of writing Remix and kind of how it came about. In 2020, we were talking about launching the podcast, getting ready to kind of, you know, we started booking guests and everything was going to be, you know, we were thinking in person, right? Because this is a thing where we interview face to face.

That's what was the idea.

Right as we recorded [00:07:00] six episodes, we all of a sudden had to pivot quickly to doing it on Zoom because of the pandemic, um, and at its height, we had it. To ask ourselves, are we going to continue this podcast? And I feel like Katie and I really sat down and discussed that. And I really believe that it was the best choice when we said, let's continue.

Let's now focus much more on the what's going on around us and teaching during the pandemic and the impact of COVID on teaching and, and really discussing the current events. So we. Initially had this idea for the pocket to be about writing about languaging about pedagogy as teachers and when we we saw When when we were forced to kind of pivot we not just pivoted the way in which we podcasted on zoom but But we pivoted [00:08:00] also what the podcast can do.

And so like focusing on current events, the 2020 election, um, the, um, Derek Chauvin case, uh, in the murder of George Floyd, the, um, Black Lives Matter movement, the protests, the, the podcast was able to become once we were. allowed the kind of idea to kind of pivot where we feel like things needed to be focused on when it needed to be focused on.

It then not just became a place where we talked about teaching, but we talked about

**Daniel Dissinger:** living and

**Danie Dissinger:** humanity and current events. And, um, it really opened up not just the ideas, but I think the guests that we were able to get and the guests that we were, um, looking to kind of have on the podcast. And, um, I hope that like, it also was, A place where people came to at that time [00:09:00] to kind of get, I mean, not just knowledge, not just like the ideas of what's happening or the news.

I don't want to think of this podcast as the news, obviously. But, at least maybe a humanistic approach and a humanistic discourse on things that can be so dehumanizing. Um, In the way in which things can be discussed in the news. So, um, I remember in episode 13, uh, using our voice and our hearts with Stephanie Renee Payne, who's been on the podcast as a guest host, has as a guest as well.

Uh, Danielle Lee also, who's been a guest host, who's been a guest numerous times. And,

**Daniel Dissinger:** um, Tomas Bell,

**Danie Dissinger:** A friend of mine,

**Daniel Dissinger:** an amazing teacher, um,

**Danie Dissinger:** um, out there who definitely look him up. We had that conversation on the protests, the, that were going on and, and, um, at the height of that, of them.

**Daniel Dissinger:** And I remember breaking down and crying while my microphone was

**Danie Dissinger:** off while we were doing the podcast. And then on a, on the [00:10:00] podcast just crying and being like, this is not just a place, the podcast isn't just a place for us to kind of talk about ideas. It definitely is a place for human beings to exchange and interact and while we couldn't be around each other and couldn't touch each other and couldn't hug each other, um, we could somehow create some sort

**Daniel Dissinger:** of, um, some sort of emotional discourse.

**Danie Dissinger:** And, um, yeah, pivoting the podcast was a definite need. Um, and I think it, I learned so much about being adaptive in that, that just because a podcast has a theme, just because a podcast has a trajectory does not mean that I can't change it. And Katie and I definitely were, definitely I think made the right choice to pivot the podcast, not just in style, um, of interviewing, um, and doing a podcast, but also in what we cover.

And

**Daniel Dissinger:** that was a

**Danie Dissinger:** huge lesson, [00:11:00] um, as well. The other thing during that time as well was how. The guests, we started to come up with all sorts of amazing opportunities to kind of like talk about writing, and all of a sudden we started seeing how the podcast is not just this archive of knowledge of pedagogy but um, of also people's writing experiences.

Um, we did one with, um, a colleague of ours in episode 29 with Amy Meyerson and her editor at the time, Natalie Hollick, who I went to school with at St. John's, and they were talking about, like, the process and the relationship between novelist and editor. Um, which, that was a really great piece, uh, a great episode.

We talked about, um, in, um, Another, another episode with a friend of mine who owns a bookstore volumes bookstore in, uh, Chicago. Um,

**Daniel Dissinger:** uh,

**Danie Dissinger:** and we talked [00:12:00] about owning a bookstore, especially during COVID and the types of pivoting that, um, she had to do for her business that, that was a really amazing episode.

And again, these things couldn't happen if we weren't open to pivoting. The idea of a podcast. And that was episode 38 with Rebecca George, um, writing about beauty and wellness. That was another one that we kind of like kept opening the, the scope of the podcast and like allowing ourselves to continue to like adapt to what's happening and being like, what else can we do?

Especially with zoom, like. We didn't have to go to Chicago to interview someone. We could just have someone come through zoom. So it really widened and it allowed us to kind of not just go nationally

**Daniel Dissinger:** with our guests, but internationally later on when we actually

**Danie Dissinger:** started talking to people across the world.

And, um, that one, you know, that, that really taught me a

**Daniel Dissinger:** lot, not just about like how I

**Danie Dissinger:** could

**Daniel Dissinger:** not just learn

**Danie Dissinger:** and talk to people, Face to face, but like people [00:13:00] are listening as well. And that was the most amazing thing. Like people are listening in other places and, um, it definitely was humbling, even more humbling at that point, but pivoting the podcast and adapting to the environment was a huge lesson and I'm glad we did that.

Um, in the

**Daniel Dissinger:** end, um,

**Danie Dissinger:** something else that I

**Daniel Dissinger:** learned that I would say

**Danie Dissinger:** scholarship is so much more than just writing. Um, it sounds so odd to say that now. In my 100th episode because how much I've done And especially with Katie's help, how much the podcast has done and how much the podcast

**Daniel Dissinger:** has archived. I mean, we've archived scholarship on identity.

We've archived scholarship on writing pedagogy. There's a,

**Danie Dissinger:** this is an archive now of, of um, of current events. It's an

**Daniel Dissinger:** archive of art. It's an [00:14:00] archive of literature.

**Danie Dissinger:** It's an archive of, um, there's a, you know, public health messaging. That was in episode, episode 57, which is a student I had as well at USC, but it became this, like, this growing,

**Daniel Dissinger:** like, hybrid archive archive.

Scholarship that

**Danie Dissinger:** I would never be able to do if I was just traditionally writing academic articles. I couldn't cont, I couldn't do a hundred

**Daniel Dissinger:** articles

**Danie Dissinger:** because I would never be able to have the time to sit and write a hundred

**Daniel Dissinger:** articles in like a year or two years.

**Danie Dissinger:** I mean, maybe, I mean, again, I know myself as a writer, I need more time, but in terms of being able.

To take the time to, to record an interview and then put it out there in the discourse for everyone to see and everyone to listen to, I think on top of having the episodes and the [00:15:00] episode notes and then in the email, like the letters I'm writing and the writing prompts I'm providing, there's so much happening in terms of scholastic work that I never knew was out there and though I think that the academic the academy is still trying to figure out like where podcasting sits and like can we add it to a You know a cv or is it seen as academic?

Which is very coded in its language I'm still so happy with the amount of scholarship. I was able to create And how much it's impacted other people. Um, I think in terms of Like the reach that a podcast has, I've learned that like this

podcast has had such a long reach that like we, it's been able to then create community with amazing colleagues of mine with across the entire country, um, with the humanities podcast network.

[00:16:00] Which then created, we created an online symposium, which

**Daniel Dissinger:** this year is having, we're having a

**Danie Dissinger:** symposium again online, and that's building even more scholastic community and more scholarship. So I think like a huge lesson is to see like, if I'm not writing. It didn't mean that I wasn't doing my scholastic duty, so to say.

**Daniel Dissinger:** The podcast has been a growing archive of scholarship that

**Danie Dissinger:** I'm super proud

**Daniel Dissinger:** of and, um,

**Danie Dissinger:** in terms of like it being comparable to academic publication, there's been a moment now with me where I'm just like, I don't feel I need to prove That this is worth the time for someone to listen to and at the same time worth my time as a scholar to continue to do.

**Daniel Dissinger:** And it's,

**Danie Dissinger:** I think, in terms of like

**Daniel Dissinger:** comparing, I don't want to

**Danie Dissinger:** compare it with an article. It's its own [00:17:00] thing. And I think it just has as much, if not, it does something that an article can't do. And that is create much more exchange and have much more reach. And where the article has its place as well, it does things that, like, obviously, I can't do on the podcast, which is, like, have...

Well, I don't know maybe have deeper like citations and stuff. I mean I could do that But I it's not my style and I think in terms of what the conversation does and having an exchange like a discourse It would there's a humanity in this that I can't get out into the article That I'm doing so the huge lesson for me that like I'm doing scholarship And I think that's a that's like something I need to



constantly remind myself because I always feel like I'm failing as a scholar if I'm not right because I haven't been writing or I haven't been publishing or I haven't been doing, you know, or taking a break from conferences.

If I take a break, like, am I doing, [00:18:00] am I doing my scholastic duty? And I think like, if I'm in conversation and I'm putting stuff out, then I think for me, like, It,

**Daniel Dissinger:** it's scholarship and I'm, I just have to learn that like,

**Danie Dissinger:** it's, it's like, I don't have to compare them. And also, I don't have to prove that anymore.

I think like the podcast definitely is proof that

**Daniel Dissinger:** like there's, there's a scholastic conversation happening.

**Danie Dissinger:** So I posted to see if I can get some questions from people and I did get a really good question, um, from on threads, which, you know, uh, check out writing remix podcast on threads. You can search for us on threads. We're on threads, we're on Instagram.

**Daniel Dissinger:** Um, and. Um, maybe not any

**Danie Dissinger:** longer on Twitter.

I haven't used it since it turned to X, but we're definitely on Instagram. You can get clips, uh, from the podcast there and also, um, or on threads, but on threads from, uh, college writing actually. So thank you. Shout out to college, uh, writing. [00:19:00] Actually for this, they say, congratulations. What is your favorite lesson you've learned while podcasting?

Um, it can be about podcasts or writing as a great question.

I think a big lesson I learned has been about writing. And that is something that I do in my class now is that there's writing, there's a role for writing in, in every modality. So, with podcasting, something I've learned about the role that writing plays, especially with writing remix, is several things.

Writing the descriptions of the podcast, having an archive, a very detailed archive of notes from the podcast, like books that have been, uh, mentioned,

people that have been mentioned, events that have been mentioned, right? So, if you go on the website, Writing Remix Podcast, you'll see That every, pretty much every episode has a very detailed list of all the, um, of anything that's been mentioned.

Texts and things like that. And you can get, go to the link and [00:20:00] get, and also get the text as well. Um, and also like the, the emails. I know like I've been. It is something that, like, I took on and I wanted to also then start to write these little notes about every episode. And, and I think it became, like, a really great practice because I've been, in a way, like, I always talk about it in a couple of the episodes, too, like, lacking

**Daniel Dissinger:** in my writing and

**Danie Dissinger:** feeling self conscious about writing.

And I think... That has given me a little more of a practice that's make that gives me a sense of like I'm doing the scholastic work even with the writing, you know, previously I said like I'm doing the scholastic work because I'm podcasting and that's a big lesson I learned but like another lesson is definitely like I'm also writing but and that writing is also coming out in writing prompts that are specific to every post so every episode and so like writing has a role [00:21:00] in podcasting you That is for me been so important that it creates different layers of engagement for the audience and and it's engagement that I'm hoping people find value in.

I know for me, it definitely gives me a sense of just that the writing practice part,

**Daniel Dissinger:** but also. I'm hoping

**Danie Dissinger:** takes my podcast and like shows how the podcast kind of is also engaging in practice and writing practice. Right. So it's not just a podcast about writing, but engages in writing practice with writing prompts and notes and things like that.

So I just want, it was a huge, it was a huge thing for me to do and to keep it up. And I think like, I, the lesson for me has been. That writing has a role in podcasting, and it goes beyond just

**Daniel Dissinger:** writing the episode descriptions. A hundred

**Danie Dissinger:** episodes is not an easy task. [00:22:00] I think a lot of podcasters, you'd see like the, everyone thinks like podcasts are so...

Well, people, everyone wants to do it. And I think, I think everyone should have a voice out there, podcast, blog, whatever it is. But I think... In terms of like when you do it, you ha like I had to find my way to do it. And then I did get I get caught up in things. And I get caught up in like Trying to create a podcast that maybe is close to sometimes that NPR ish type of like sanitize editing or, you know, how much should I cut this down or, you know, um, over editing the podcast.

And I think I've start started to relax. With that part because as you can see there are a lot of like stuttering There's a lot of ums or likes or things like that that I go through but it's that's me like that's my [00:23:00] voice And I want the podcast to be a representation of the people on it, and I don't And a huge lesson has been like, to pull back on editing in order for, to be like, what's the voice of this podcast?

It doesn't have to be like other podcasts. It doesn't, I don't have to be like other podcasters. People don't tune into this podcast to, to listen to me try to be another podcaster. And I feel like that is a, Personal lesson that I've truly had to learn because it's so hard to listen to yourself over and over again to hear your own voice to right now I'm speaking in my, in my office to myself in a way, and it's hard to kind of know that your voice, your, Your voice, voice is going out into the, into the public.

I don't want to be someone else. I want to be me. And really learning to accept myself as the [00:24:00] podcaster I am, as the person I am, Um, it has been a very difficult challenge. And I think, I'm hoping that as I continue this, that that, that does, I continue to grow more and more comfortable in my own voice. And, and that's also to say, like, it, I, A hundred episodes really shows me that

There's a community out there that

**Daniel Dissinger:** is,

**Danie Dissinger:** when I went to CCCCs last year, uh, this year in 2003, when I went to CCCCs and then I went to Southwest Popular Culture Conference in Albuquerque, I interviewed people just like,

**Daniel Dissinger:** randomly, um, and I was so

**Danie Dissinger:** scared to do it. It was one of the scariest things, like me just walking up to people and talking to them without any preface of like an email being like, Oh, do you want to be on the podcast?

Um, is, um, very, [00:25:00] very, um, nerve wracking for me. I don't do well with that. Um, I, I seem very kind of extroverted sometimes, but I'm a super, I'm super introverted. I will just sit in my hotel in conferences and then do my presentation and be afraid to kind of like mingle around. So it was a huge challenge for me to kind of do this.

And I think this goes with the, you know, along with like what, um, College writing actually is also asking is that and I would thank that I thank you for this question because it's getting me into this conversation that like The podcast has taught me to challenge myself. And so when I went to interview people it was the most enriching experience Because I would never be able to get that many people on one episode or be able to, you know, meet that many, like, have them all on, and I was able to meet so many interesting people.

Um, at CCCCs, I talked to people at the digital poster, um, session, and, I mean, [00:26:00] Everyone's project was so amazing and shout out to everyone that like, um, that talked to me

**Daniel Dissinger:** during that

**Danie Dissinger:** time. I, I will hopefully get back to you so we can have our own solo episodes and also everyone that talked to me at Southwest Popular Culture Conference.

I've never, you know, you can't see every presentation, but when I was able to talk to people, I was so. It was, it was like, I was so surprised. I was just like, Oh my God, like, there's so much going on at the conference that people don't know about. And so I'm hoping to do more of that as I go to other conferences, but it really was such a lesson to professionally and personally that like, First of all, it's okay to just go up, it's okay for me to just ask someone if they'd like to be on the podcast, the worst thing they could say is no.

And two, most people don't want to say no, most people will say yes, and everyone does say yes, they want to talk, they want to say hi, and they also want to talk about the thing that they're doing there. Everyone is doing something [00:27:00] interesting, and a lot of the times, you know, no one ever asks them about it.

And so in a lot of times, like the huge lesson I've learned is that people want to share their scholarship. And so I want to be a person, I want to be a resource to celebrate and also platform people's scholarship. Um, so going into the next hundred episodes, that's a challenge I'm going to give myself is to kind of create different types of podcasts, episodes, more interview based, um, and maybe, maybe even more like spontaneous interviews.

You know, One thing, also, is that... I've never done that many solo episodes. I've done one other one, and this one, where it's just me. Uh, Katie and I did maybe two or three. Oh, that was the time for this episode. But, um, Katie and I did two or three, I think. And, definitely, those episodes, We're [00:28:00] impactful. I think not just for the audience.

I did, you know, we would, you know, receive, you know, emails about them, but like they were impactful. It was impactful for me to kind of sit and reflect on things in a solo episodes, because I don't just want the audience to like, Think of me as like, I guess, a mouthpiece for questions and conversations.

Like there's so much that I want to like do as

**Daniel Dissinger:** a scholar

**Danie Dissinger:** and a podcaster. And I want you all to get to know me. So, you know, doing episodes by myself, like the couple that the couple that I did with Katie and the one I did on my own was so challenging for me to sit and do, but I'm so glad I did them because.

It created such a different layer to the podcast that I'm really happy, um, is out there, um, because just like, you know, understanding the humanity in all the people that [00:29:00] I've had here, I'm also trying to figure, you know, Reflect on my own as well as like someone in a way surviving this scholastic career and being out there as a writer and, you know, I want to be a resource for people and, um, an example of not just like the things I do well, but the mistakes I make.

I've made a plenty of mistakes podcasting, not timing the episodes in the beginning and having them too long over editing, um, in the beginning. Um, not booking guests. Yeah. far ahead enough, not having enough episodes banked in order to, um, give myself, you know, give ourselves and give myself time to edit.

Um, I think podcasting a huge lesson I learned is like how much podcasting can catch up with you and almost overtake everything you do. And it becomes, it can quickly become a chore. This is something I chose to do because I wanted to do it. So going forward, a huge thing that I'm trying [00:30:00] to keep in mind is my own, mental health as a podcaster.

Um, because It's important for me to love doing this so that I could do it well, and that's also been a huge thing that

**Daniel Dissinger:** I had to learn, especially last year when I took a huge break, um, to kind of get, you know, get things together.

Uh, you know,

**Danie Dissinger:** I'm thinking of so many things and, and just how, so many people that have helped me get to a hundred episodes and,

**Daniel Dissinger:** It's just

**Danie Dissinger:** been an amazing journey. I'm really hoping that... There's a hundred more episodes. Um, I'm looking forward to releasing episodes coming up. I have episodes coming up that I did last year as well.

So, you know, definitely cannot wait to put those out [00:31:00] there. Um, but I also... Want to start doing even more of these types of episodes, like more solo episodes, more interviews, spontaneous interview episodes. Um, so definitely let me know the types of things that you love about the Writing Remix. Please tell me, you know, um, things that you would like to see me do on the Writing Remix.

Um, I'd love to hear your questions and comments. Like the podcast. Share it with people, subscribe to the podcast. It's the only way for the podcast to grow. You are what keeps this, keeps this podcast going. And so I would love to hear from anyone. You can email me at [writingremixpodcast@gmail.com](mailto:writingremixpodcast@gmail.com). You can leave your comments on Instagram.

If you want to be a guest, you can email me or DM me on Instagram and I'm looking forward to another hundred episodes. This has been an amazing journey. I could talk forever about other things that [00:32:00] I learned, podcasting. But the main thing I would say is that I've learned

**Daniel Dissinger:** to enjoy my work. I

**Danie Dissinger:** know there was a moment while I was doing this a longer than just a moment where like it became very difficult to

**Daniel Dissinger:** continue,

**Danie Dissinger:** but.

I really enjoy this because talking to people, providing a platform to celebrate

**Daniel Dissinger:** writers, poets, scholars,

**Danie Dissinger:** just people out there doing the work that sometimes we never hear

**Daniel Dissinger:** about.

**Danie Dissinger:** Honoring them and honoring that space for students, for teachers as well. That's what keeps me coming back. [00:33:00] I love this. And I'm hoping you love it too. I will see you all on the next episode. And thank you again for an amazing hundred

**Daniel Dissinger:** episodes.