



**H A B I B P U B L I C S C H O O L**  
**A L U M N I A S S O C I A T I O N**

**ON WRITING AN ARTICLE**

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(Batch 1971)

*(This article was first written by Mr. Razi ur Rahman our English teacher, Habib Public School. I was mesmerized after reading the article published in our school magazine. Of course I don't remember the words verbatim but the beauty of his thoughts stuck to my senses. I have, therefore, reproduced his feelings in my words paying highest tribute to Mr. Razi ur Rahman, our great English teacher and to all other educators of HPS)*

My colleagues in Habib School asked me to write an article for the school magazine.

Being an English teacher, I was experienced enough to produce a good topic with a format to match. My mind raked all over my thoughts to find a good topic for my article. Of course one can fight off rivalry, even enmity but you get completely bogged down when you stand alone against expectations.

What makes life miserable is when people assign you a task, requesting you to hurry up with the assignment to be completed within an allocated time. We all have heard time is short echoing from people who are late and want to pass the disadvantage on to others yet expecting the assignee to produce work of genius. Well people are interested in getting a job done. It is rare that they understand the difference, between a mere work of art and time it takes to produce a masterpiece.

These are practical people. They laboriously go about doing their job. Their motivation in life is close to an old adage: "Best is the enemy of good". From the urgency as sought by the committee responsible for publishing the school magazine; my task was to produce the best article among other good ones. I understand the sale pitch but how you get roped in, is marketing.

It is said that harmony of thought and action produce best results but my mind was running way ahead then my physical being. Topic of an article became a fetish. I knew from inside of me that if I find a good topic my article would automatically raise to a category of best. So a complete disorder in eating, sleeping, talking, teaching all followed by an exercise in irritation.

Many people believe that if a question is understood, 50% of it is solved. Question was clear: "What should be the topic of my article"? No solution was obtained from research. QED was not equal to QED, math failed. People's opinions failed. Target time passed. Result zero. Despite my best efforts, I could not find a suitable topic for my article.

Many noticeable topics did not make my task any simpler. With no time to gain, ideas began to filter in. How about unsung heroes of Pakistan.... Need for uplifting education standards .... Degree, a price

possession ... Heh! How about plight of teachers, nah they will never print it. Then I got stuck on, 'education a method of character building'. It seemed a good topic.

Then the internal debate started. The topic was too serious for students. I needed to catch and capture their interest. From management point of view, the topic was more administrative.

Of course host of other topics landed and took off from my thoughts. None seemed smart enough to land on my expectations. What worried me was that they did not even stop to refuel. Search for a topic for my article became Amazon Jungle where even sunlight does not penetrate. The sun light of my hope kept jumping from one branch to another in search of a right topic.

The frustration when we are trying to remember something and cannot is universal. It is very exasperating. It is also a miserable feeling. I was getting all other ideas, recollections; I could even recall my childhood memories, but no siree bob no topic for the article would register. Well my position seemed like never to improve.

I tried to calm myself. Take a deep breath and shut my eyes as if in trance. I was certain that there was a big problem in selecting the topic for the article. Then a bright light under my eyes penetrated my being. I suddenly sat up straight, opened my eyes, smiled. The topic was there all the time right under my nose and I could not see it here it is:

***“Struggles needed for selecting a topic for an article”***