

Community Comment  
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### The value of tedium

Most of us work for a living. No surprise. In almost anything we do for work, as craft or art, fitness, you name it, results we value take skill, experience, training, and thought to be successful. But I'll bet you all, like me, also know a lot of the work we do is tedious.

Tedious is that part of work or activity that requires repetitious action to complete a project. I've been a wood worker most of my life. I find it to be relaxing and satisfying to design and build a table or ~~some~~<sup>other</sup> other home project. I also know that a lot of building small projects requires many tedious actions to complete. Hand sanding is a great example of a tedious action that ends with a desired finish. Last summer, I treated myself to a two week course on traditional small boat building. I had a great experience with eleven other people interested in the same thing. But it doesn't take long to realize that boat building, like furniture making, or general carpentry work require many stages of a process and some are just plain tedious.

I was talking to a neighbor who is a very talented artist. ~~He paints landscapes and local scenes and is a master at it.~~<sup>SP</sup> I mentioned that a lot of the activity involved in my small construction project requires a great deal of tedious activity. He said tell me about it; his art, which is creative and beautiful requires a huge amount of tedious work to complete.

I think there is value in tedious activity. Even though it is mostly unavoidable in most work or activity, it is often that willingness to accept the tedium that is necessary to complete a project that sets it apart from others. I've known many people in my life that are simply unable to get their head in to tedious or repetitious actions and get board. I've heard some call tedious activity mind numbing and unpleasant. But accepting this level of detail often leads to a more successful outcome.

I make this point to suggest that tedium is not just a part of physical activities. A scientist will do endless observations and multiple repeats of the same test just to try to verify a theory or prove a conclusion. Just look at how long it takes to get a new life saving medicine on the market for general use.

It is even the same for politicians. You know the saying "the devil is in the details"? Like the artist, picking the subject is one thing; painting the picture is the hard part.

This week your President met with the dictator of North Korea. Before the meeting, he was asked about his preparation. He said he really didn't need to do any because it was mostly about attitude. Since the meeting we have heard how great the meeting was and what a great guy this fellow is. Really? This is the guy who imprisons thousands of his own people. He killed relatives to assume his position. He had his half brother killed in a

foriegn airport, he has lied to the U.S. for the last 40 years and he killed more than 40 of our sailors just a few years ago. Trump has now aligned himself, us, more with North Korea, Russia, and China than France, Germany, and Canada.

This reckless man is destroying our republic and the Republican Congress does nothing. The damage is on their hands.

They are unwilling or incapable of doing the tedious work to govern this great country.

This has been sam pennisi for community comment