

ECONOMICS OF CREATIVE WORK

A perfectionist's attempt at being **good enough**

Work cited: Caves, R. E. (2006). Economic analysis and steps toward completing the work. In H. S. Becker, R. R. Faulkner, & B. Kirshenblatt-Gimblett (Eds.), *Art from start to finish: Jazz, painting, writing, and other improvisations* (pp. 135–148). University of Chicago Press.

ASK Before you keep polishing

- 1 What value are you trying to achieve?
- 2 What is the next input you are considering?
- 3 What are the opportunity costs?
- 4 What kind of improvement would the output make to your value goal?

THEN Weigh it up

INPUT OUTWEIGHS THE COST?

Go for it!

IF NOT?

Maybe it's "good enough."

WORKED EXAMPLE

Do I need more reading notes?

Work cited: Dr. PK [@SOCurious_PhD]. (2026, October). *Perfectionists: How to know when to stop* [Video]. YouTube. <https://youtube.com/shorts/UPM3kfRhTVo>

ASK Prepping for a YouTube collab

- 1 **WHAT VALUE ARE YOU TRYING TO ACHIEVE?**
Have real empirical and useful information to share for my YT collaboration.
- 2 **WHAT IS THE NEXT INPUT YOU ARE CONSIDERING?**
Creating more detailed notes of every reading for my online library so I can be ready for every eventuality.
- 3 **WHAT ARE THE OPPORTUNITY COSTS?**
Sleep. Mental health. Time away from loved ones.
- 4 **WHAT IMPROVEMENT WOULD IT MAKE TO YOUR VALUE GOAL?**
A lot of the articles are confirming other findings. I don't need 100 examples, just a few representative ones.

VERDICT Weighed up

THE COST OUTWEIGHS THE IMPROVEMENT

My time is better spent detailing **a few good examples I can speak about on air.**

NOTE TO READER: *I did not do this. I let my perfectionist-self win. And I regret it. I wish I'd been fluent in less vs. vague about a lot.*