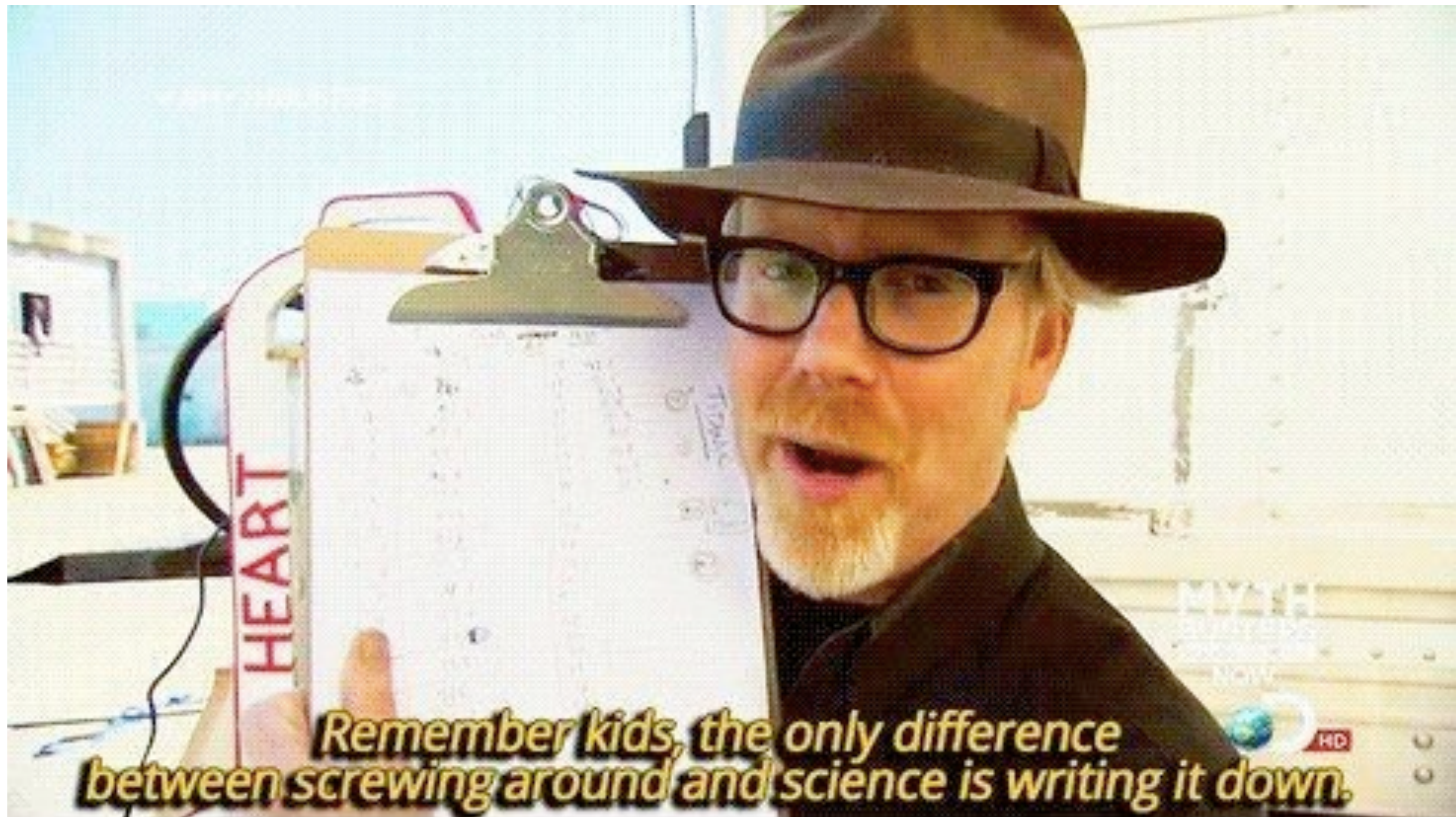


# practice-based research

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**Remember kids, the only difference between screwing around and science is writing it down.**



**what is "practice"?**

**"doing something that extends beyond everyday thinking into actions... realizing them in some way"; e.g., "designing food packaging or making an artwork in paper, in wood or steel, to creating new dance moves or writing poems or travel journals"**

(Candy and Edmonds 64)

**designers, artists, programmers, makers — we're all *practitioners***

**what is "research"?**

**"a systematic investigation to establish facts, test theories and reach new knowledge or new understandings"; public research "achiev[es] something new in the world, and both its outcomes and methodology are expected to be available to anyone wishing to scrutinize or challenge it"**

(Candy and Edmonds 64)

**research in this sense is traditionally considered the domain of the sciences and humanities. however...**



**"As the published records of the creative practitioners demonstrate, searching for new understandings and seeking out new techniques for realising ideas is a substantial part of everyday practice. However, this kind of research is, for the most part, directed towards the individual's particular goals of the time rather than seeking to add to our shared store of knowledge in a more general sense."**

(Candy 2)

**what is "practice-based  
research"?**

- "**practice-based research** aims to generate culturally novel apprehensions that are **not just novel to the creator or individual observers of an artefact**" (Candy 2).
- In this kind of research, the artifacts are **not "expected to speak for themselves"**; practitioners provide "commentary is needed that frames the context in which the artwork is to be understood... **signposts that guide us to an understanding of its significance**" (Candy and Edmonds 65, 66).
- In practice-based research, "**the creative act is an experiment** (whether or not the work itself is deemed "experimental"), one designed to answer a directed research question about art and the practice of it, which could not otherwise be explored by other methods" (Skains).



**In practice-based research, making the thing is not an end in itself. You need demonstrate the importance of what you made. Making the thing is an experiment designed to answer a question. You have to be able to answer the question: how do you know if it worked?**

**allison wtf does any of this even  
mean. from like a practical  
perspective**

# the structure of the research paper

- **Abstract.** What you did, why you did it, how you did it, what the outcome was, why that outcome is significant.
- **Introduction.** Unpack the abstract and set out how the paper works.
- **Related work.** Situate your work in a field of practice and contrast your project and methodology with similar work in that field.
- **Methodology.** Describe what you did! Discuss your criteria for success and your methods for meeting them.
- **Evaluation.** Quantitative studies, case studies, interviews, reflections, analyses, etc.
- **Conclusion.** Summarize the project and the strengths and limitations of your methodology. Re-assert the context of your work and outline directions for future research.



**(look at some examples)**

# works cited

- Candy, Linda. "Practice-based research: a guide." <https://www.creativityandcognition.com/resources/PBR%20Guide-1.1-2006.pdf>
- Candy, Linda, and Ernest Edmonds. "Practice-Based Research in the Creative Arts: Foundations and Futures from the Front Line." *Leonardo*, vol. 51, no. 1, Feb. 2018, pp. 63–69.
- Skains, Lyle. "Creative Practice as Research: Discourse on Methodology." <https://scalar.usc.edu/works/creative-practice-research/index>