

Mary is my realtime mentor. She has committed to help me pass the realtime exam and become realtime certified. One of the things she does is she encourages me to practice daily. Last week we were practicing an FCRR practice CD. I did fairly well on it so we decided to check it. I have been convinced that my “problem” with passing the CRR is I have so many conflicts. I had turned on my conflict resolution but had also convinced myself that the “artificial intelligence” was less than intelligent. I was fairly certain that I wouldn’t have passed this exam because of the software selecting the wrong conflict.

We started checking, me reading back aloud and telling Mary what my mistakes were, and Mary following along. She began categorizing my errors: wrong conflict selection, mistrokes, punctuation and stacking. It turns out that I would have narrowly missed the passing grade on the test. But what I discovered was that my software is really pretty good at picking the right conflict. What surprised me is that I had a lot of missing punctuation and quite a few mistrokes.

So what does that say to me? How do I need to prepare for the realtime test? I think I need to increase my speed so that I have less hesitation AND I need to write daily with *intention*. I need to practice writing all my punctuation while I’m in court, and trying to consciously clean up my writing. The only way I know to increase my speed is practice faster material. That’s my plan.

This is what I would say to you if you’re feeling the paralyzing fear of the looming deadline and still no passing grade: Evaluate your own writing. Find someone to help you or do it on your own but try to figure out what is holding you back. Then work on it, and go for it.

I know many of us are unhappy about the CJD requirement, but it is what it is and we have an opportunity to be really, really excellent. Do it.