

The New York Times

India Ink

Notes on the World's Largest Democracy

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Five Questions for: Abhijit V. Banerjee

By *THE NEW YORK TIMES*

*At the Jaipur Literature Festival this weekend, India Ink is asking authors five questions about writing and about themselves. **Nikhila Gill** caught up with the co-author of “Poor Economics,” a book which reexamines ways of fighting poverty.*

Q.

What’s your best advice for unpublished writers?

A.

Don’t think too much about getting published. Write what you believe in, not pre-cooked ideas of what you think will be published.

Q.

What’s your favorite cure for writer’s block?

A.

I have permanent writer’s block. Even writing a page is torture, it’s endemic.

Q.

What do you remember of your worst review?

A.

It was about a particular paper — critic said that it lacked all insight.

Q.

Who’s your dream biographer?

A.

Not vain enough to think that anyone would want to write about my life.

Q.

Why should we read your latest book?

A.

The book will help readers think beyond cliches. The field of development economics is dominated by convenient cliches but the book pushes you to think beyond them.

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