

EncycloMedia Man *by Mike Overly*

Unlimited vs. Limited

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Igor Stravinsky wrote this in **Poetics of Music**:

“My freedom will be so much the greater and more meaningful the more narrowly I limit my field of action and the more I surround myself with obstacles. Whatever diminishes constraint diminishes strength. The more constraints one imposes, the more one frees one’s self of the chains that shackle the spirit.”

What does this mean?

Think of it this way.

Set down with your instrument and begin writing a song. I bet you have a hard time getting started? Why is that?

It’s because your **possibilities** are **unlimited** and that makes choosing hard. However, if you **limit** yourself to just one chord, you can **begin**.

Unless you are **James Brown**, just one chord is not going to make a song. So, limit yourself to another chord.

Now, with these two chords, you can begin the **process** of **editing**. In other words, you can change your mind and choose a different chord.

Proceed with this editing process until you reach the end. It is there you will discover that you have written a song.

To summarize, limit your field of action at the beginning to increase your creativity by revealing more choices... not less.

Said differently, think of ways to **limit** yourself to discover your **unlimited** potential.

‘til next time, play and have fun... I’ll be listening!

Unlimited vs. Limited

Choice

Unlimited

- Uncertain
- Too Many Possibilities
- Can't Begin

Limited

- Certain
- Only One
- Can Begin
- Edit