

#### MAXIMIZING YOUR TRAFFIC WITH RAINMAKER:

# Q&A ON USING RAINMAKER'S POWERFUL SUITE OF TRAFFIC AND SEO TOOLS

PRESENTED BY JEROD MORRIS, CHRIS GARRETT, AND SEAN JACKSON

**RAINMAKER PLATFORM** 





· Can you hear us okay? (What is your goal for today's session?)



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- To improve presentation clarity, limit memory- and bandwidth-hogging applications (e.g. Dropbox, backups, etc.)



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  - Let us know in Questions box



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  - Let us know in Questions box
  - Try reloading the webinar
- Have no fear: a replay will be available for on-demand viewing at rainmakerplatform.com/site-building-roadmap





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Regarding the slug for a page or post, I know that Rainmaker will automatically produce something. If you are going to edit the slug, however, what (SEO) considerations come into play in deciding what is best (e.g. number of words, relationship to page/post title, etc.) and when would you include (what I think are called) "stop" words in a slug (if ever)?

First of all, you should always edit your slug. Make sure it includes exactly the word(s) you want it to. Leave nothing to chance or automation.





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A good slug will include a keyword or short keyword phrase, and, if possible, answer the intent of the audience.





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"Stop words" in a slug are connecting words (a, is, with, but, etc.) that are often removed to make slugs simpler and more elegant.





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"Stop words" in a slug are connecting words (a, is, with, but, etc.) that are often removed to make slugs simpler and more elegant.

It's fine to remove them, so long as their removal does not alter the actual meaning of your slug (e.g. what-is-hearing-loss versus what-hearing-loss).

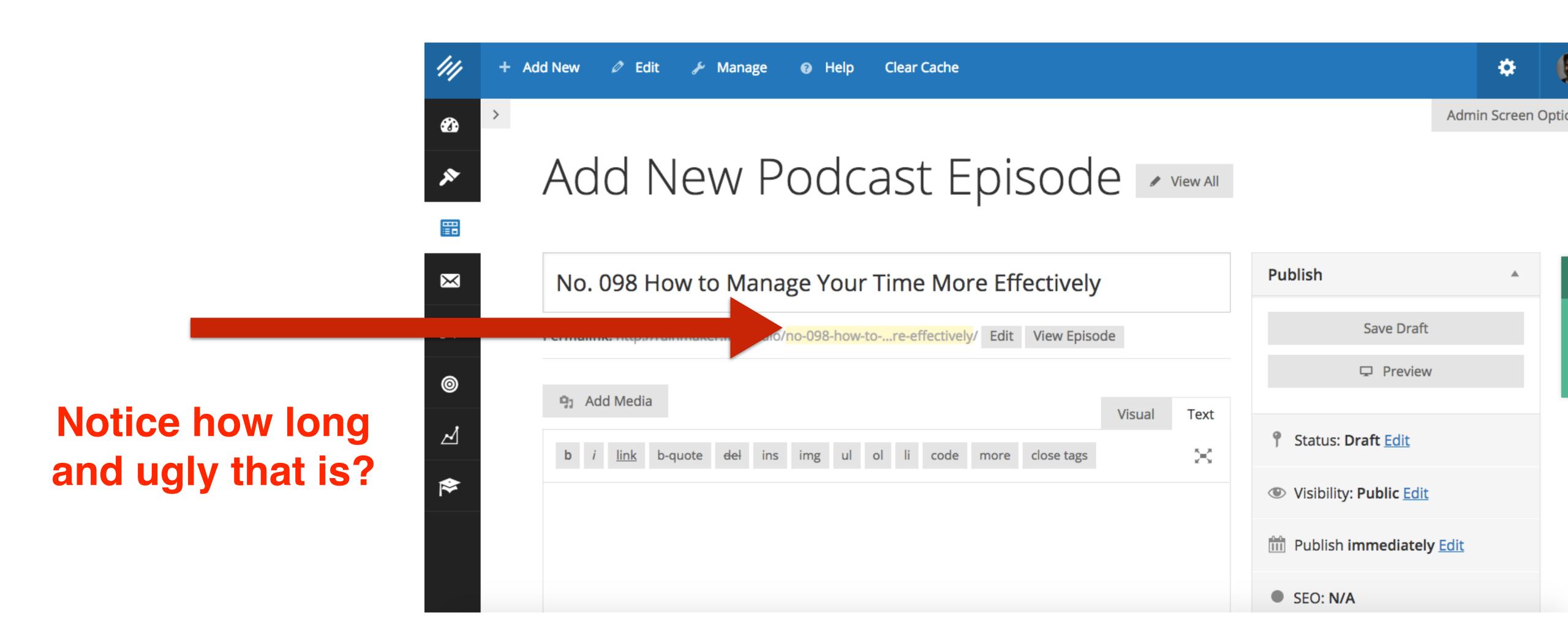




Clear Cache Admin Screen Option As soon as you Add New Podcast Episode 🗸 View All enter your headline, Rainmaker auto-器 populates a slug. **Publish**  $\times$ No. 098 How to Manage Your Time More Effectively Save Draft 6/no-098-how-to-...re-effectively/ Edit View Episode Preview 0 Add Media Visual Text ⊿ The Status: Draft Edit  $\simeq$ Visibility: Public Edit Publish immediately Edit SEO: N/A



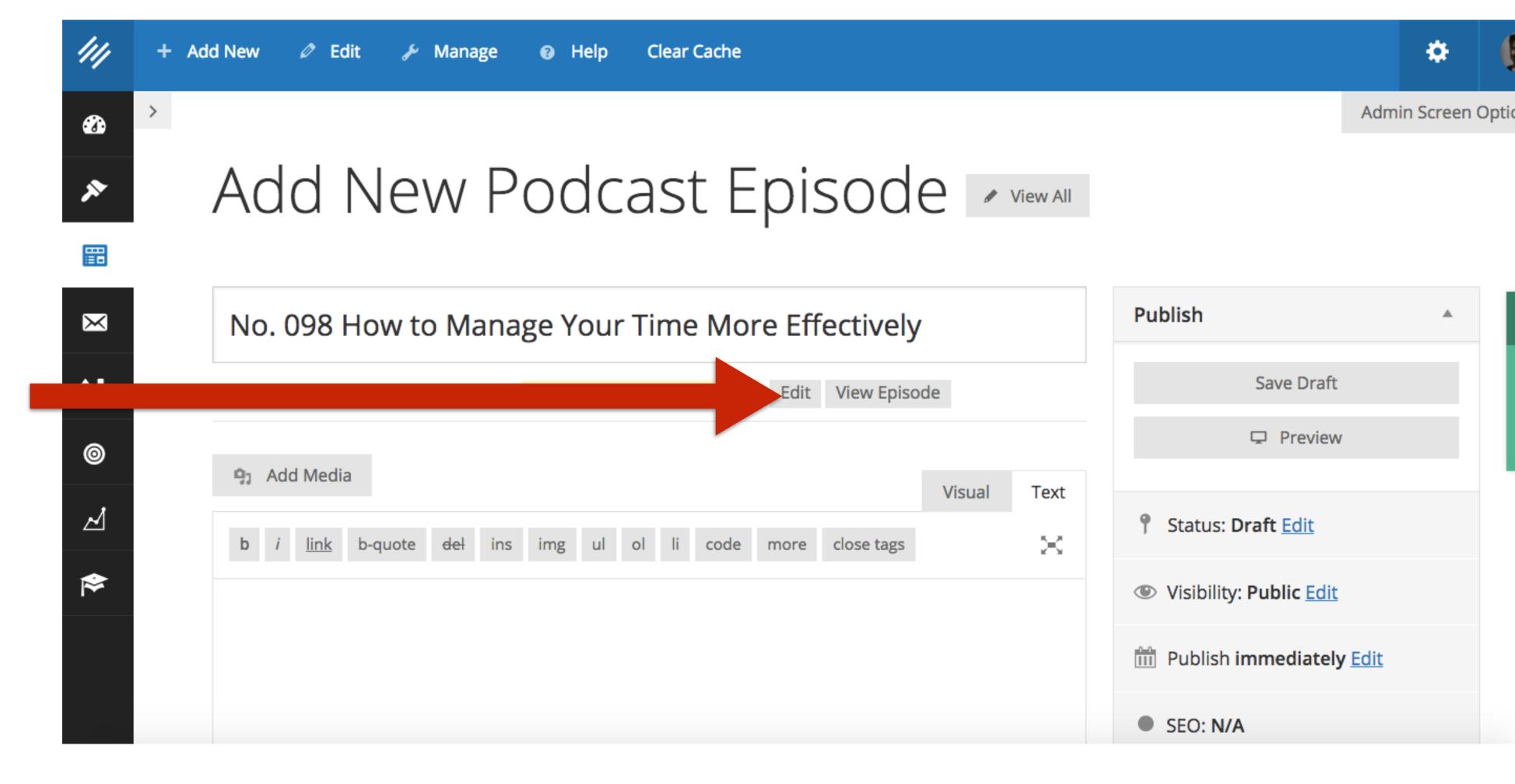






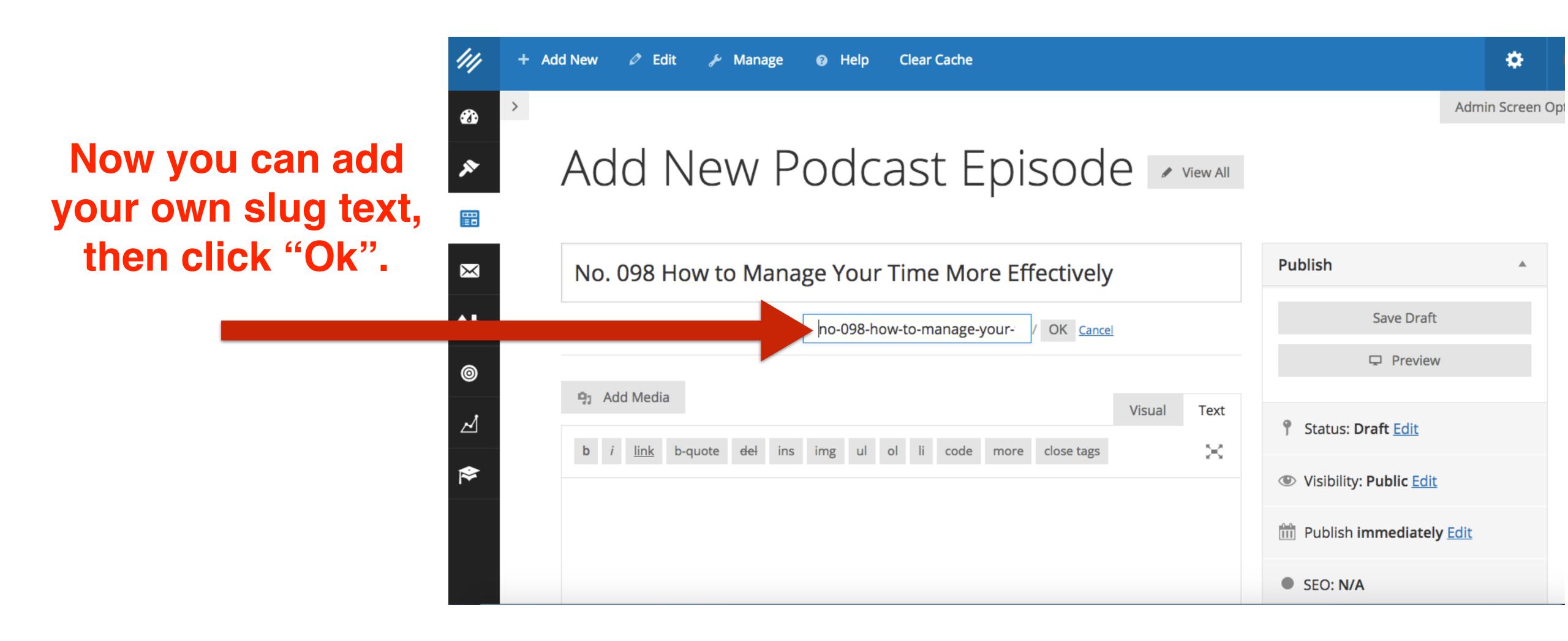






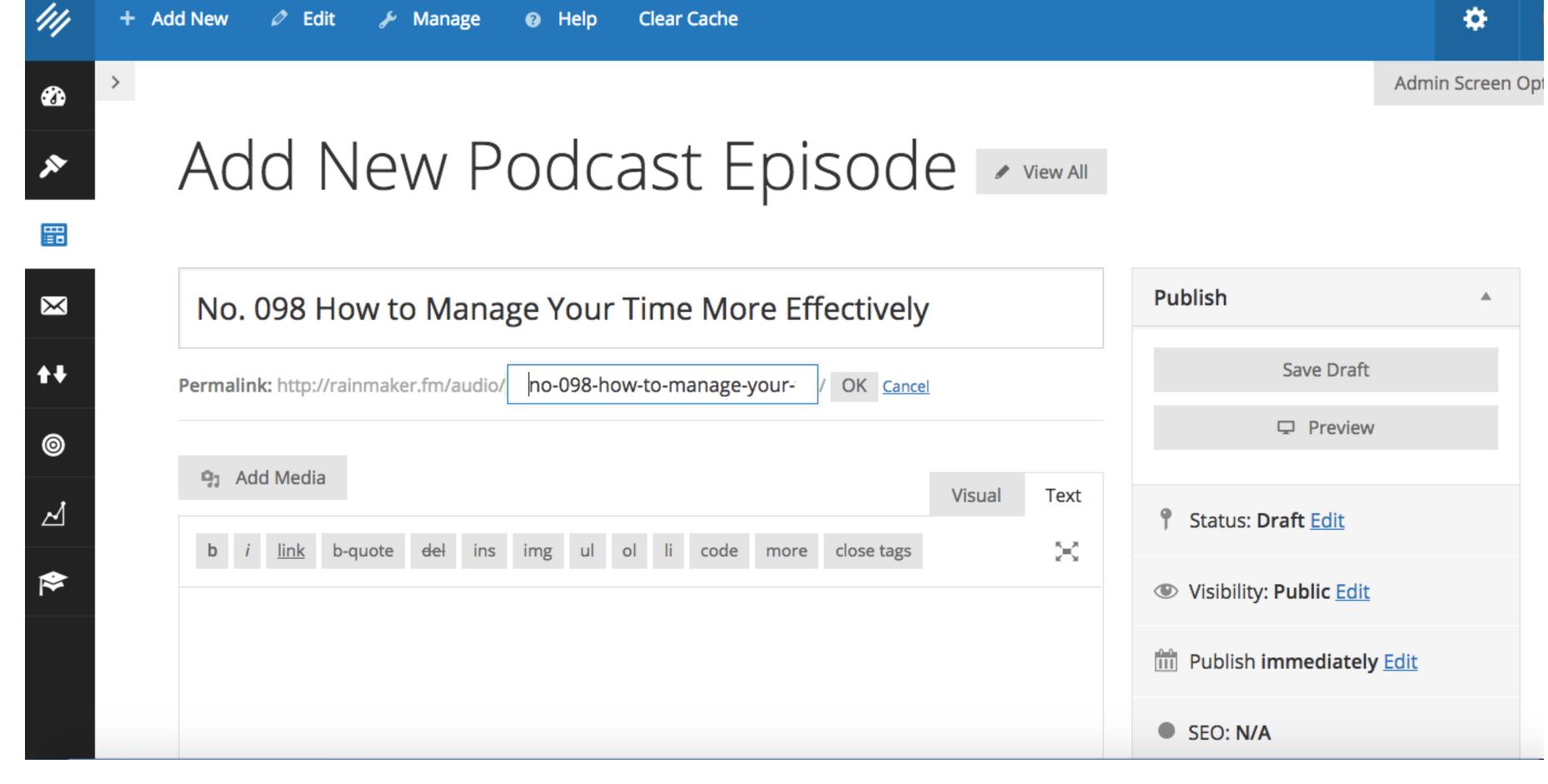




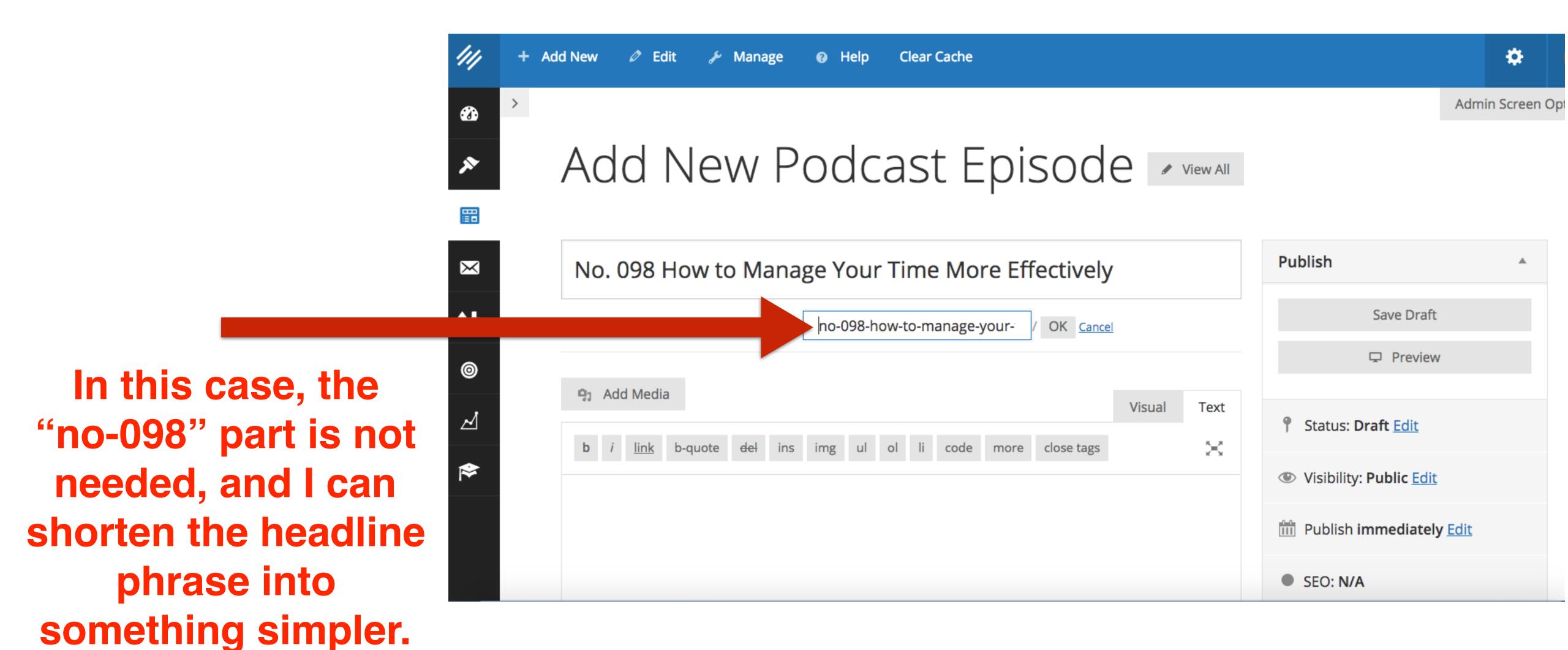




Remember: keep it simple, but include a relevant keyword or keyword phrase that will immediately signal to an audience member what the page is about.

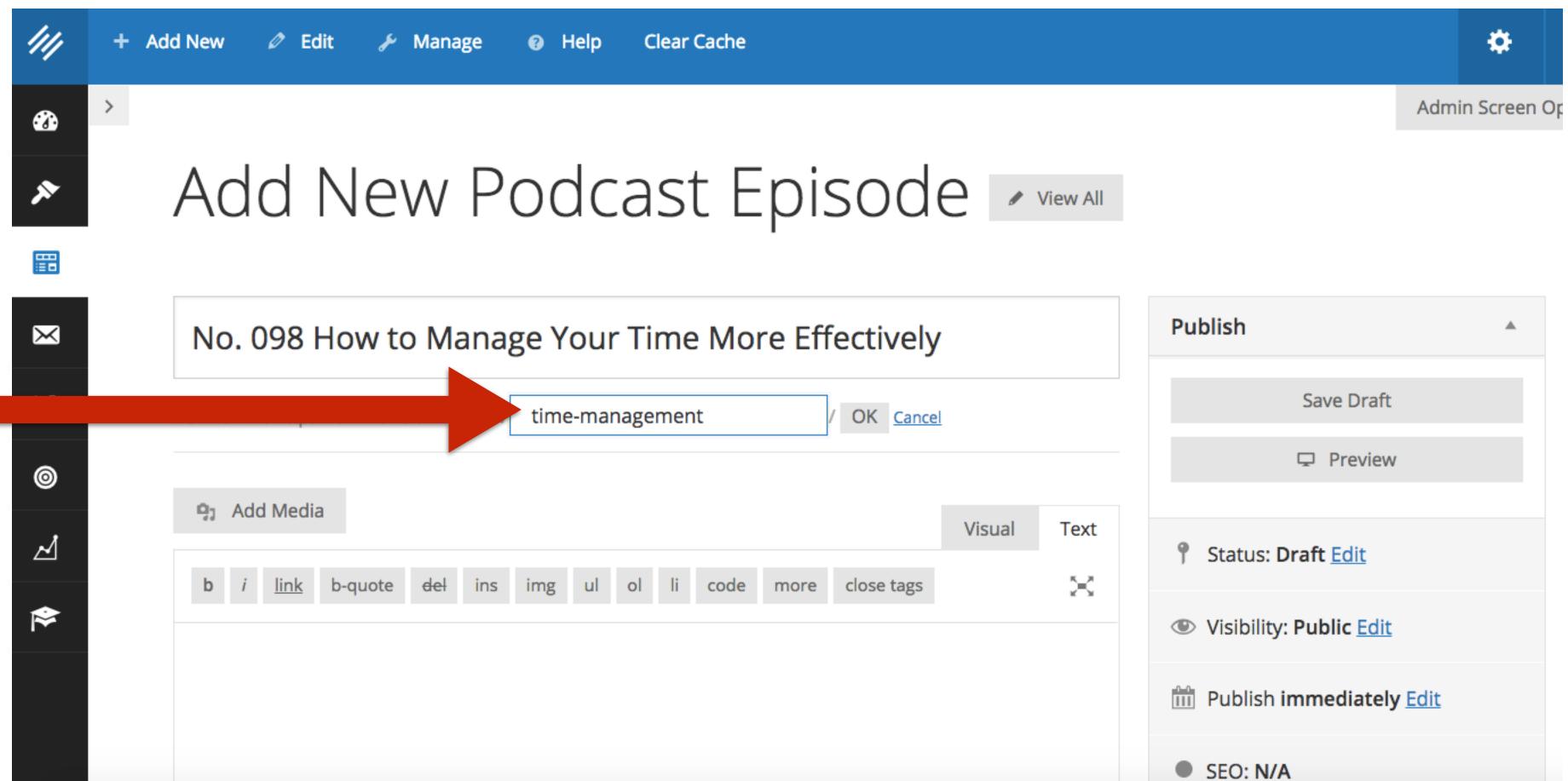








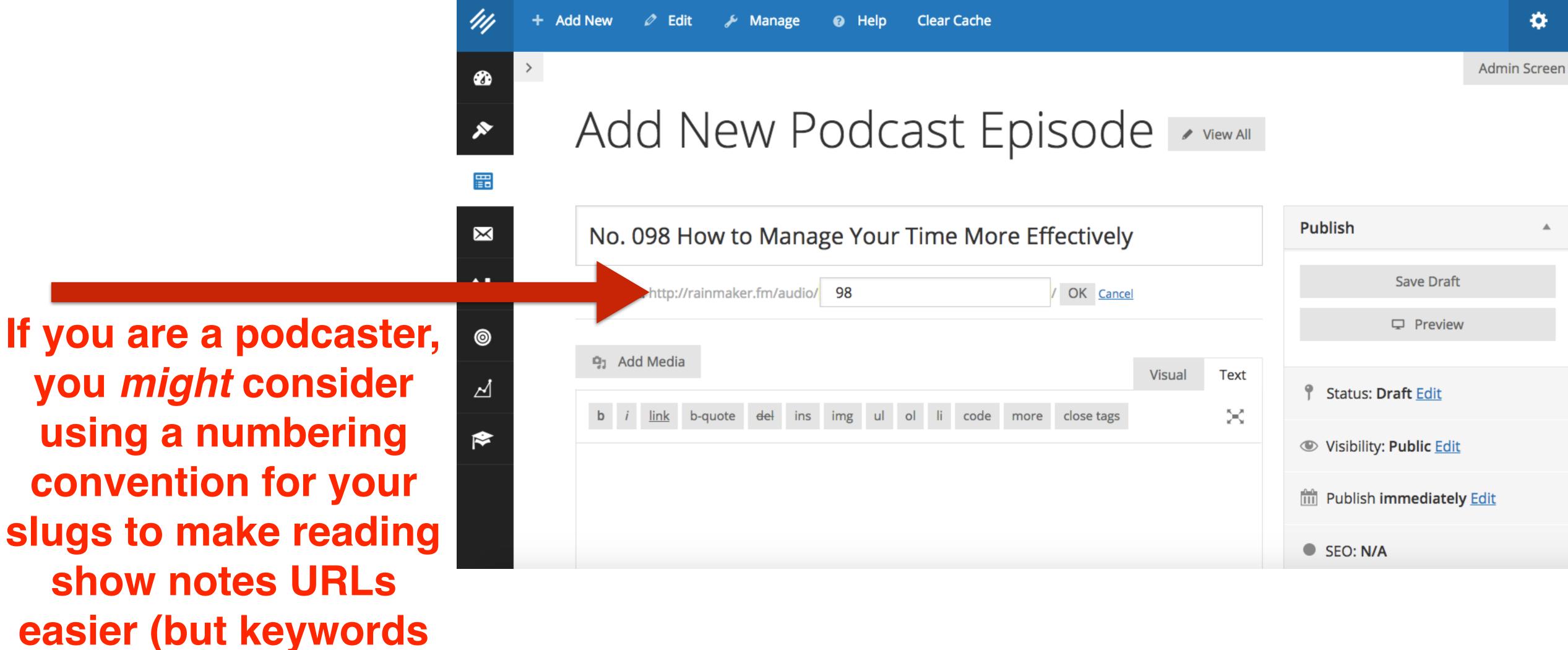
This is much simpler, and includes a relevant keyword phrase. (Also notice how individual words are separated by dash marks.)







are still better).





I have to admit that I have not used the Social Post Scheduling yet (I generally use HootSuite for that sort of thing). Is it possible to repeat, say, tweets about particular posts and revisit / retweet posts after the passage of time (say, months later)?

Not presently. You would need to recreate the social share.





# Question 2 (Jarmar)

Jerod mentioned using the Canonical link feature for a blog post related to a podcast. Can we see an example of that and what SEO/ traffic advantages does that provide?



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The benefit of creating separate podcast/blog posts: optimize the on-page experience for each one. De-clutter reading experience for the blog post and highlight attention on player for podcast post.





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The benefit of using the Canonical URL: since Google will filter duplicate content (though not penalize you), using the Canonical tag will ensure that the URL you want to surface in search results is the one that actually surfaces.









ABOUT CONTENT FORUMS MEMBERS SUBSCRIBE LIVE

JEROD MORRIS / APRIL 10, 2017

# 3 Reasons Why Ed Schilling Will Be a Great Addition to Archie Miller's Staff

A few thoughts about Indiana basketball posted on the morning of April 10, 2017 ...

(Note: To listen to the podcast version of today's 3-point shot, click here.)

A report broke over the weekend <u>from Jeff Goodman</u> that confirms what Jeff Rabjohns had been saying over at the <u>Peegs premium forum</u> for a few days now: Ed Schilling appears likely to fill the third and final slot on Archie Miller's coaching staff.

While the staff will be announced all at once, it is expected to include the following names:

- Assistant Coach: Bruiser Flint
- Assistant Coach: Tom Ostrom
- Assistant Coach: Ed Schilling
- Director of Basketball Operations: Bill Comar

Ostrom and Comar were both with Archie Miller at Dayton. Schilling has spent the last four seasons with Steve Alford at UCLA.

Here is the blog post version. Notice how the page is clean and optimized for reading.







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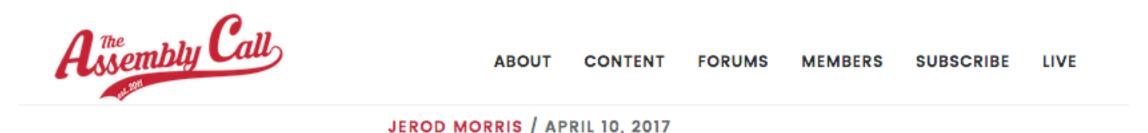
Also, I provide a link right at the beginning to alert people to the podcast, should they prefer to listen.





Now here is the podcast version. Notice how the page highlights the podcast player and links to other listening sources. Reading is secondary.

(Further down the page, a link is provided to the blog post.)



Podcast: 3 Reasons Why Ed Schilling Will Be a Great Addition to

**Archie Miller's Staff** 



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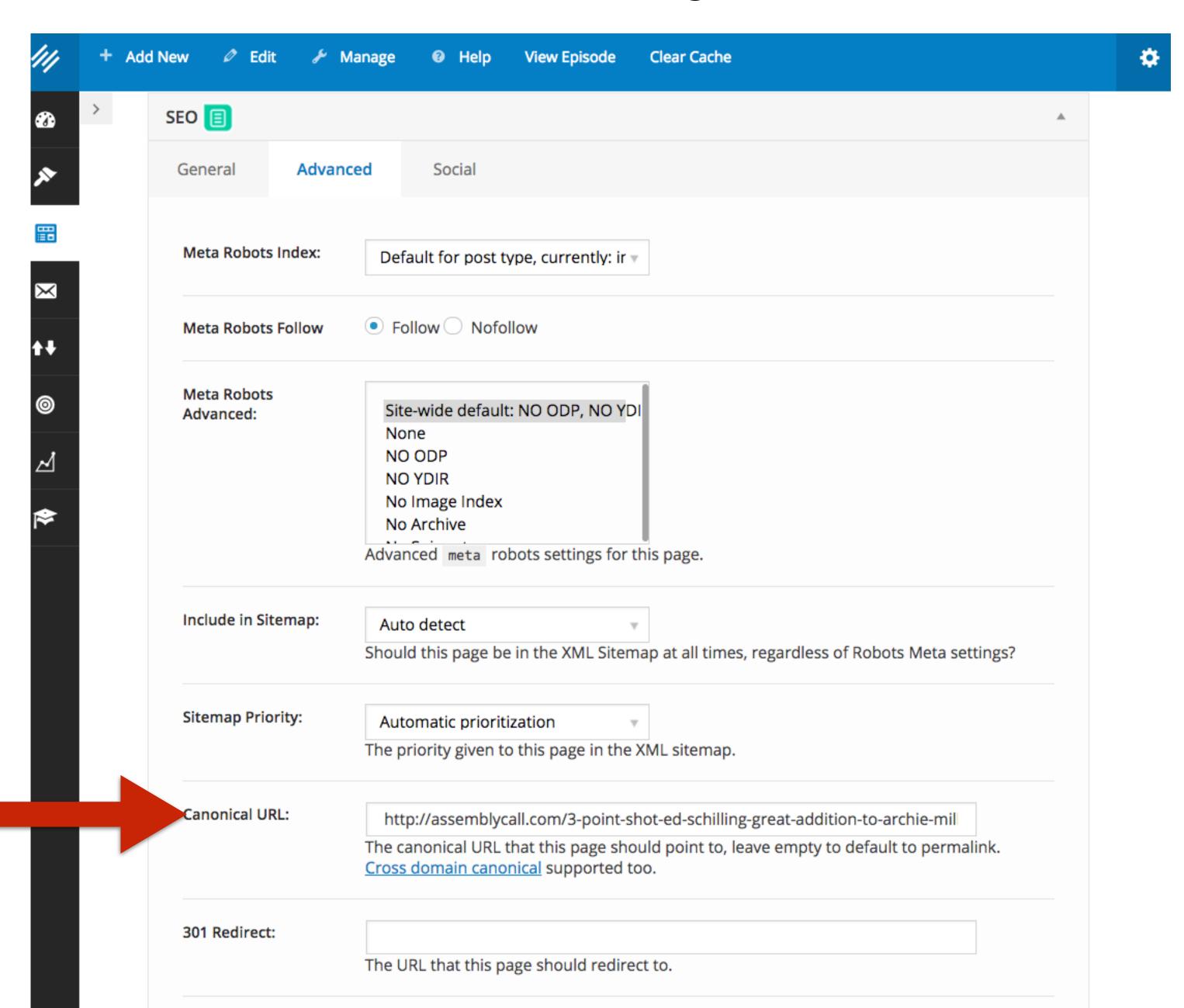
Which of the two pages would I prefer to surface in search engines?

Which of the two pages would I prefer to surface in search engines?

The blog post page — it has more text content, which should increase its likelihood of surfacing for relevant searches.

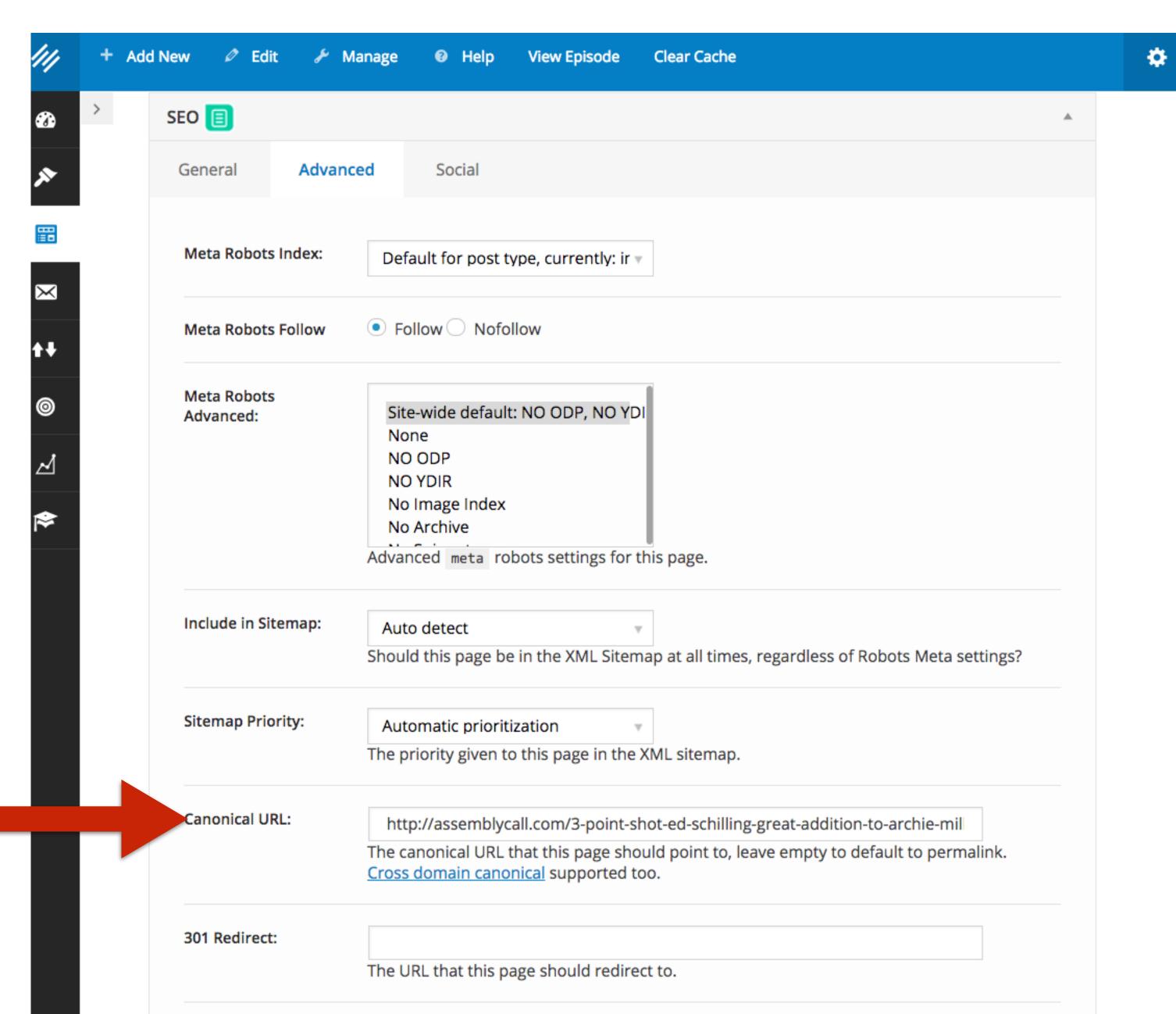


So in the SEO widget on the podcast edit page, under the "Advanced" tab, I've included the link to the blog post as the Canonical URL.





This tells search engines that the blog post is the "original" content and should be given preference over the podcast post for search results.



Result: on front page

of search results for

"ed schilling indiana",

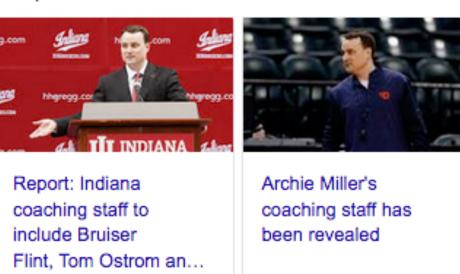
and it's the blog post,

not then podcast

episode page.

About 370,000 results (0.51 seconds)

#### Top stories



Inside the Hall · 2 days ago

The Crimson Quarry · 2 days ...

UCLA Assistant Ed Schilling to IU; Who Replaces Him? -Ucla

Scout · 2 days ago

More for ed schilling indiana.

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3 days ago - The Hoosiers coaching staff will include Bruiser Flint, Tom Ostrom and Ed Schilling as assistant coaches, according to a report on Sunday ...

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#### Ed Schilling to reportedly join Indiana as assistant | IU sports ...

www.heraldtimesonline.com/.../ed-schilling...indiana.../article\_e902474e-df23-50c6-b... ▼ 3 days ago - UCLA assistant and former Park Tudor coach Ed Schilling is set to join Miller in Bloomington, according to a report from ESPN. Schilling has ..

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UCLA Assistant Ed Schilling to IU; Who Replaces Him? - Ucla - Scout www.scout.com > College > Ucla ▼

Ann 10 -- RPO reported a few dave and it was likely LICLA assistant Ed Schilling would take an





**Also: this reminded** 

me that I need to

submit The Assembly

Call to Google News!

(I thought I had, but

upon further review I

realized I hadn't.)

Google ed schilling indiana

About 370,000 results (0.51 seconds)

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## Question 3 (Christine)

I entered both the keyword "proactive" and the key phrase "how to be proactive" in my traffic/outreach area and was graded a D. What is this looking at? When you search "how to be proactive" in google, it pulls a definition from my article and provides the link to an article on my site. This is the very first result listed. It seems insane to have a grade of D for that and it makes me question the accuracy of what Rainmaker is looking at. Can you explain what creates this letter grade?

**Short answer here** 





## Question 3a (Christine)

Is there any chance you're adding a feature in the future to allow for automated social scheduling? For example, when a blog post gets published it will automatically post on Facebook, twitter, etc?





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Is there any chance you're adding a feature in the future to allow for automated social scheduling? For example, when a blog post gets published it will automatically post on Facebook, Twitter, etc?

You can already have the social post go live when a scheduled post publishes using the Social Scheduler tool. You just can't set it from the post screen. (Also, if you want ALL posts to be automatically posted to your social accounts when published on your site, there are third-party apps that can assist with that.)





## Question 4 (Arthur)

How can SEO and Social be used with Curated Content? For example: When using Rainmaker's Post-Level SEO and Social Tools, can I treat a post I've created from curated content the same way as I would for a "traditional" post? Would this change under either of these circumstances: 1) I add a single curated source to one of my own articles - as a way to enhance it; 2) I combine multiple curated sources to create a curation only post - similar to Brian Clark's <u>further.net</u>. Do you have any other tips / tricks for using SEO and Social for Curated Content?





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Why would the SEO and Social strategy for a post with curated content be any different than a post with all original content? Either way, you have a URL with content on it, which delivers some amount of value, and you are looking to get that URL in front of the people who will find it valuable.





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So ... You need a headline that makes a promise your content (curated or otherwise) delivers on, and that headline should include keywords your audience will recognize and use when searching for the answers your content provides.





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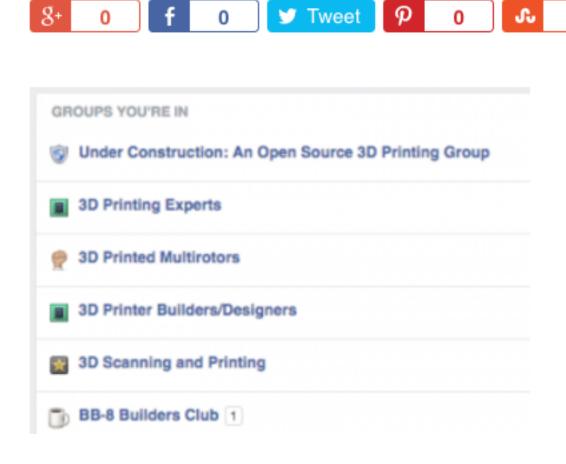
Contact Maker Hacks

# Here is a curated post from MakerHacks.com.

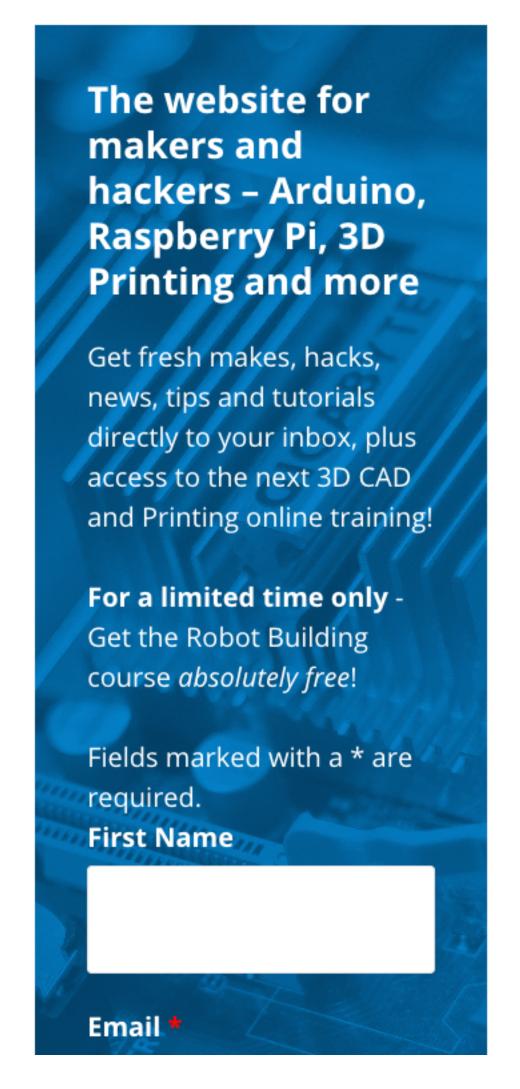
YOU ARE HERE: HOME / IDEAS / 34 OF THE BEST 3D PRINTING FACEBOOK GROUPS

## 34 of the Best 3D Printing Facebook Groups

CHRIS GARRETT



Facebook has quickly become THE place to discuss 3D printing. I have to say I probably spend more coffee break time geeking out about 3D printing on





YOU ARE HERE: HOME / IDEAS / 34 OF THE BEST 3D PRINTING FACEBOOK GROUPS

# The headline makes a simple promise that the content delivers on.

# 34 of the Best 3D Printing Facebook Groups

GROUPS YOU'RE IN

Under Construction: An Open Source 3D Printing Group

3D Printing Experts

3D Printed Multirotors

3D Printer Builders/Designers

3D Scanning and Printing

BB-8 Builders Club 1

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The website for makers and hackers - Arduino, Raspberry Pi, 3D **Printing and more** Get fresh makes, hacks, news, tips and tutorials directly to your inbox, plus access to the next 3D CAD and Printing online training! For a limited time only -Get the Robot Building course absolutely free! Fields marked with a \* are required. **First Name** Email \*





CHRIS GARRETT

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## 34 of the Best 3D Printing Facebook Groups

It is also optimized for searches around "3d printing Facebook groups," as well as structured to attract social media attention (big number, use of the word "best," etc.).

GROUPS YOU'RE IN

Facebook has quickly
become THE place to
discuss 3D printing. I
about 3D Printed Multirotors

and Printer Builders/Designers

BB-8 Builders Club 1

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The website for makers and hackers - Arduino, Raspberry Pi, 3D **Printing and more** Get fresh makes, hacks, news, tips and tutorials directly to your inbox, plus access to the next 3D CAD and Printing online training! For a limited time only -Get the Robot Building course absolutely free! Fields marked with a \* are required. **First Name** Email \*



CHRIS GARRETT

# The only element of this page that might be different from a "normal" post on the site is the goal.

YOU ARE HERE: HOME / IDEAS / 34 OF THE BEST 3D PRINTING FACEBOOK GROUPS

## 34 of the Best 3D Printing Facebook Groups

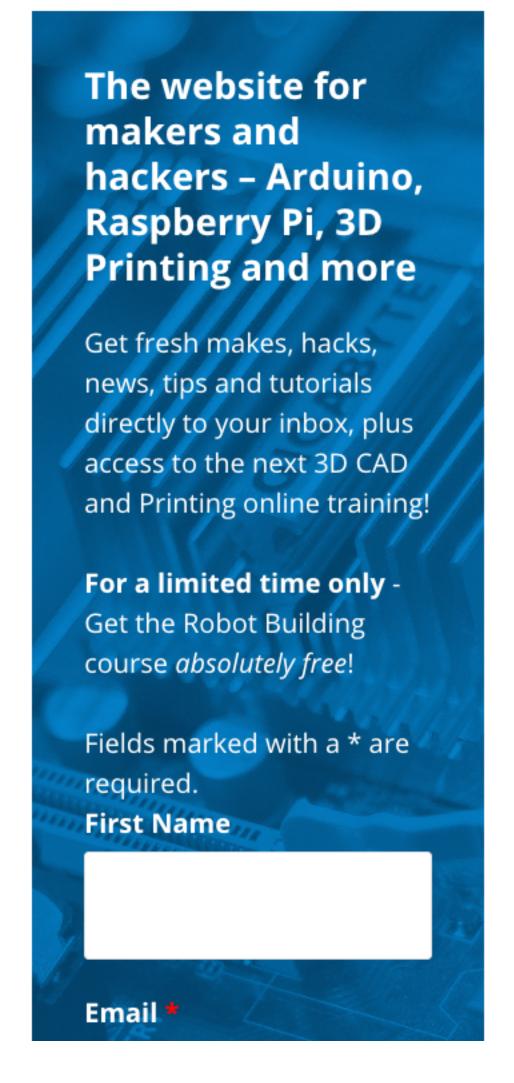
GROUPS YOU'RE IN

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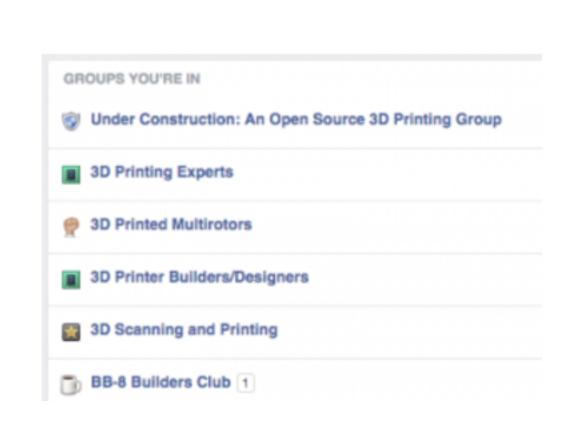
The goal for this page is to attract a click, have the post be read, and ultimately deliver value in the form of people learning about these Facebook groups (which you assume they'll

click over to).

YOU ARE HERE: HOME / IDEAS / 34 OF THE BEST 3D PRINTING FACEBOOK GROUPS

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CHRIS GARRETT



But before people click away, you hope some authority is built for yourself, and maybe even that some people decide to subscribe.

GR	OUPS YOU'RE IN
0	Under Construction: An Open Source 3D Printing Group
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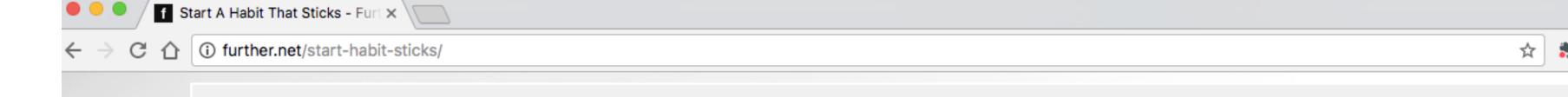
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Here is a curated post from <u>further.net</u>. (It includes links to external articles about health, wealth, wisdom, and travel.)



Get the very best tips, trends, stories, and science about health, wealth, wisdom, and travel - without the noise and fluff.

Email Address JOIN US

NO CHARGE. NO SPAM. UNSUBSCRIBE ANYTIME.

### **Start A Habit That Sticks**

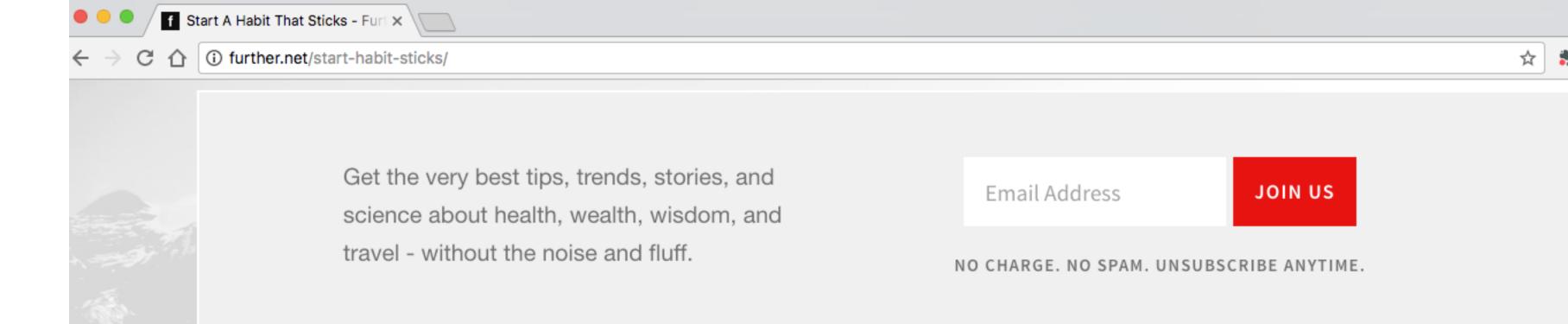
APRIL 11, 2017

We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit.

~ Will Durant







The headline makes a promise that the post needs to deliver on (and hopefully with more substance than just another link to click).

### **Start A Habit That Sticks**

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It delivers. Brian includes a useful five-paragraph description that describes his personal experience with habits and sells the value of clicking on the link. (Note: In this particular case, it's a link to an article on further.net, but often it's



Habits are tough.

On one hand, habits can be incredibly tough to break. That's what makes them so powerful.

But once you create a new, desirable habit, it *also* becomes hard to break. And that's how we change for the better.

In the past, I've tried to chase too big a change, too fast. Plus, I tried to change multiple things at one time, effectively leading to willpower fatigue before I could implement one new positive habit.

So, when I read Claire Emerson's submission for a Further original article, I did more than green light it. I implemented the advice to get me back into shape for spring hiking here on Colorado's Front Range.

Hope it helps you, too:

11 Surprisingly Simple Ways to Start A Habit That Sticks

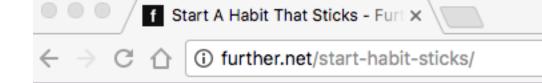
Keep going-

Brian Clark

Further



The presence of this copy will keep people on the page longer, give them value independent of the next link click, and thereby confer authority onto Brian and the site.



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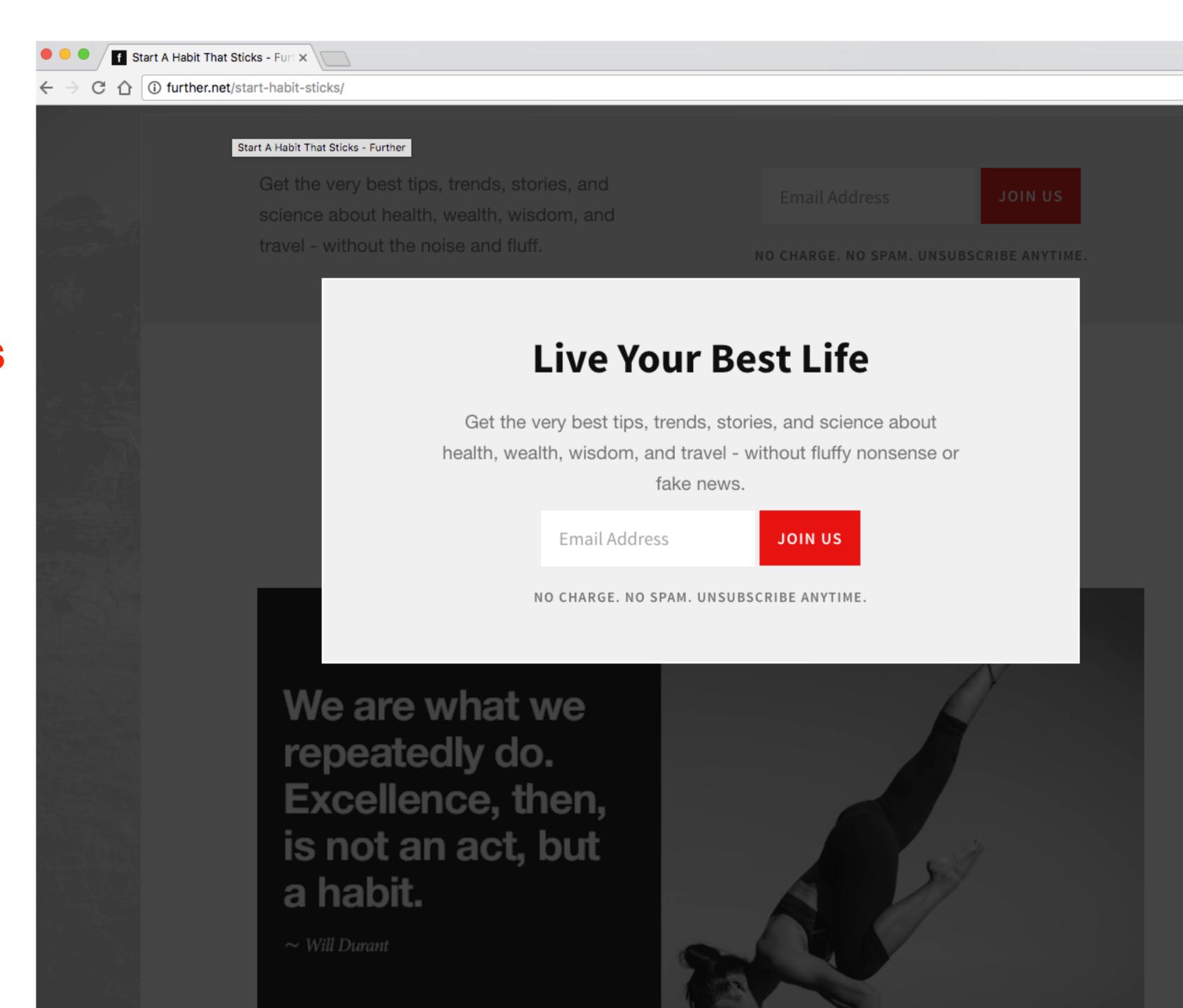
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Further



And hopefully it compels the reader to subscribe.





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For titles, put your most important keywords toward the beginning ... and don't worry about including all possible variations. Trust the search engines to get it.;-)





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For titles, put your most important keywords toward the beginning ... and don't worry about including all possible variations. Trust the search engines to get it.;-)

For descriptions, think like a copywriter. They aren't an official ranking factor, but the words you write will influence clicks, which will in turn influence traffic, visitor expectations, and rankings.



## Question 6 (Will)

I've paid very little attention to ranking, and continue to see my list grow, likely from creating worthy content that gets shared. I lucked out on a blog post a year ago about a dangerous dog drug, and now appear on page 1 of the SERP for that drug's name. In general, what few low hanging fruits should I be picking that aren't just good content + Rainmaker goodness to increase my SEO?

Thanks guys.







That aren't just good content + Rainmaker goodness ...

 Leverage authority into backlinks — write guest posts, be on podcasts (request link in show notes), submit articles to relevant roundups, etc.



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- 2. **Focus on your internal link structure** especially to cornerstone pages
- 3. **Pay attention to details** URL slugs, keywords in h2 subheads, including descriptive ALT tags on images, etc.
  - **And remember:** these details aren't just about optimizing your site "technically" for a search engine; they are as much about improving the visitor experience.



## Question 7 (Tanya)

What do these two really mean? [Page Score + Site Score]

For one page I got: Page Score 100 + Site Score 50. The 100 sounds fantastic. Does that mean I win?





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The Page Score and Site Score rank how optimized your post, and your site as a whole, is for the keyword you have chosen to analyze for.





# Question 7 (Tanya)

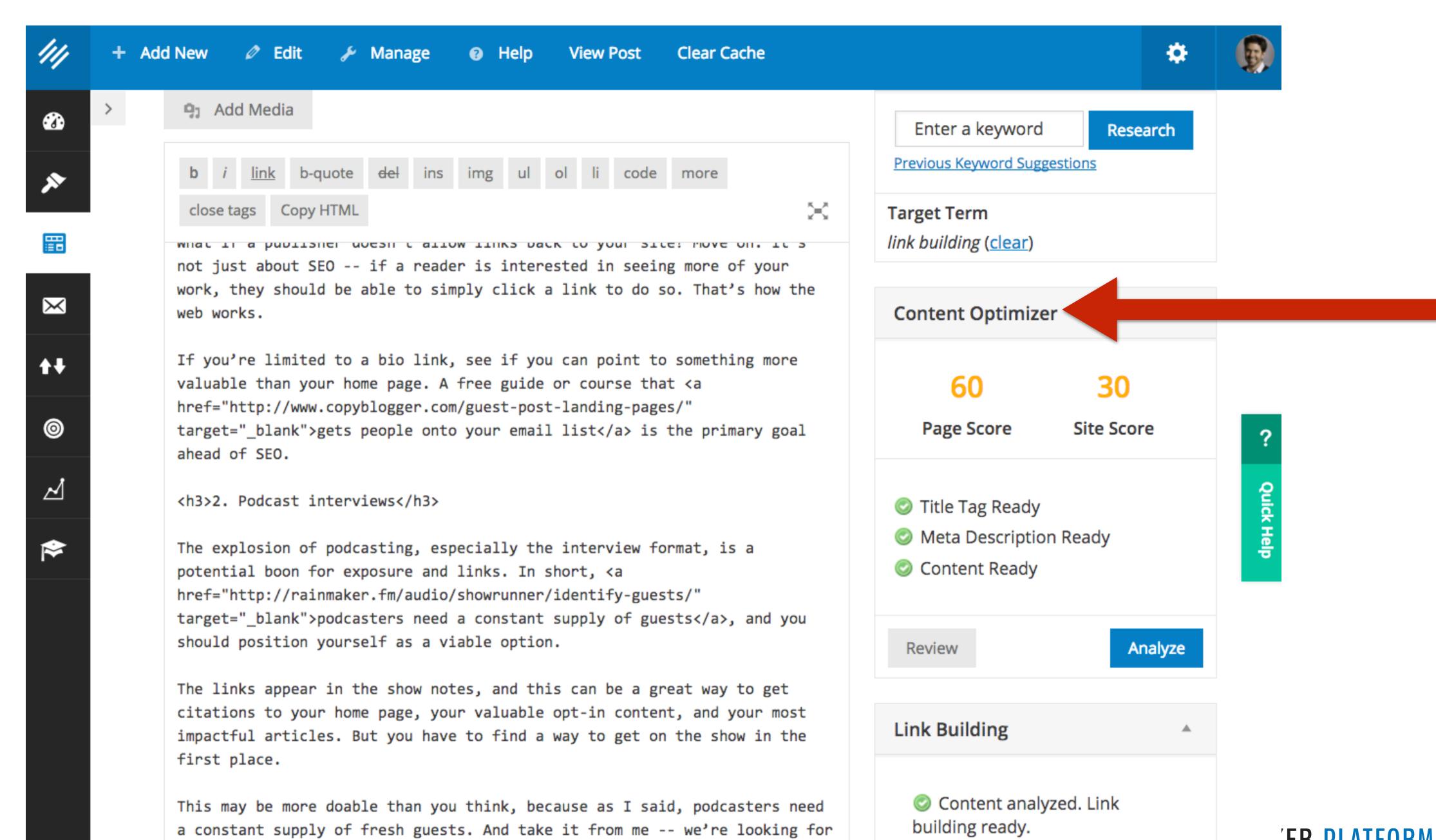
What do these two really mean? [Page Score + Site Score]

For one page I got: Page Score 100 + Site Score 50. The 100 sounds fantastic. Does that mean I win?

So if you got a 100 for your page score, that means the page itself is highly optimized for that particular keyword. Your site, on then other hand, is only halfway there.

Without more detail, the Site Score is difficult to judge. But if the primary keyword for this post is *also* a primary keyword for your entire site, then you should take it as a suggestion to improve the site's overall optimization for that keyword.





Link Term:

new and interesting people outside of the typical echo chamber that exists

in every niche.

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# Question 7a (Tanya)

What about SEO tricks for search, like submitting site/pages to google, things like that?



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What about SEO tricks for search, like submitting site/pages to google, things like that?

While you should consider submitting your site to Google News, if it qualifies, you don't *need* to submit your site to Google. If you have a new site, simply start posting your links to your social media accounts and the search engines will follow. Then, once you're in the index, the only real "trick" is to show search engines in a variety of ways that you're delivering an exceptional visitor experience.





# Comment 7b (Tanya)

Hey Jerod, in an email you asked for a creative 404 Page. I think I got one, go find it ...



◆ TANYA ◆

design your brand > energize your life

#### ruh roh . . .



+

design your brand & energize your fancy pants life

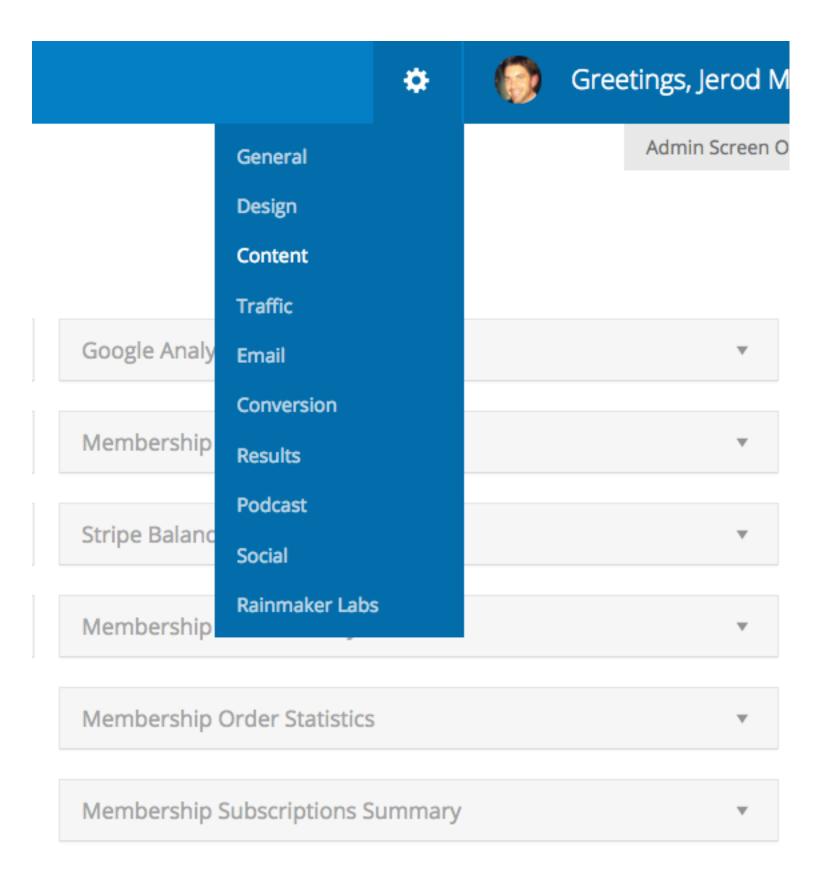
Get your *fancyfive* prime actions and prep your brand to become **The Luminary** 

Enter your Name & E-Mail below ↓

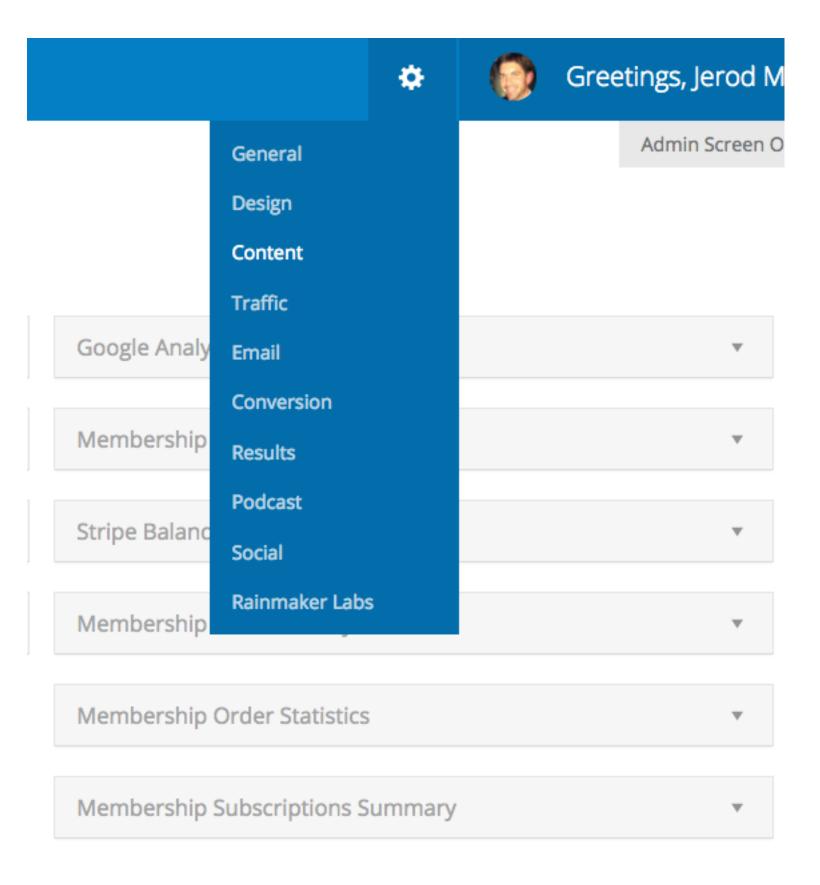




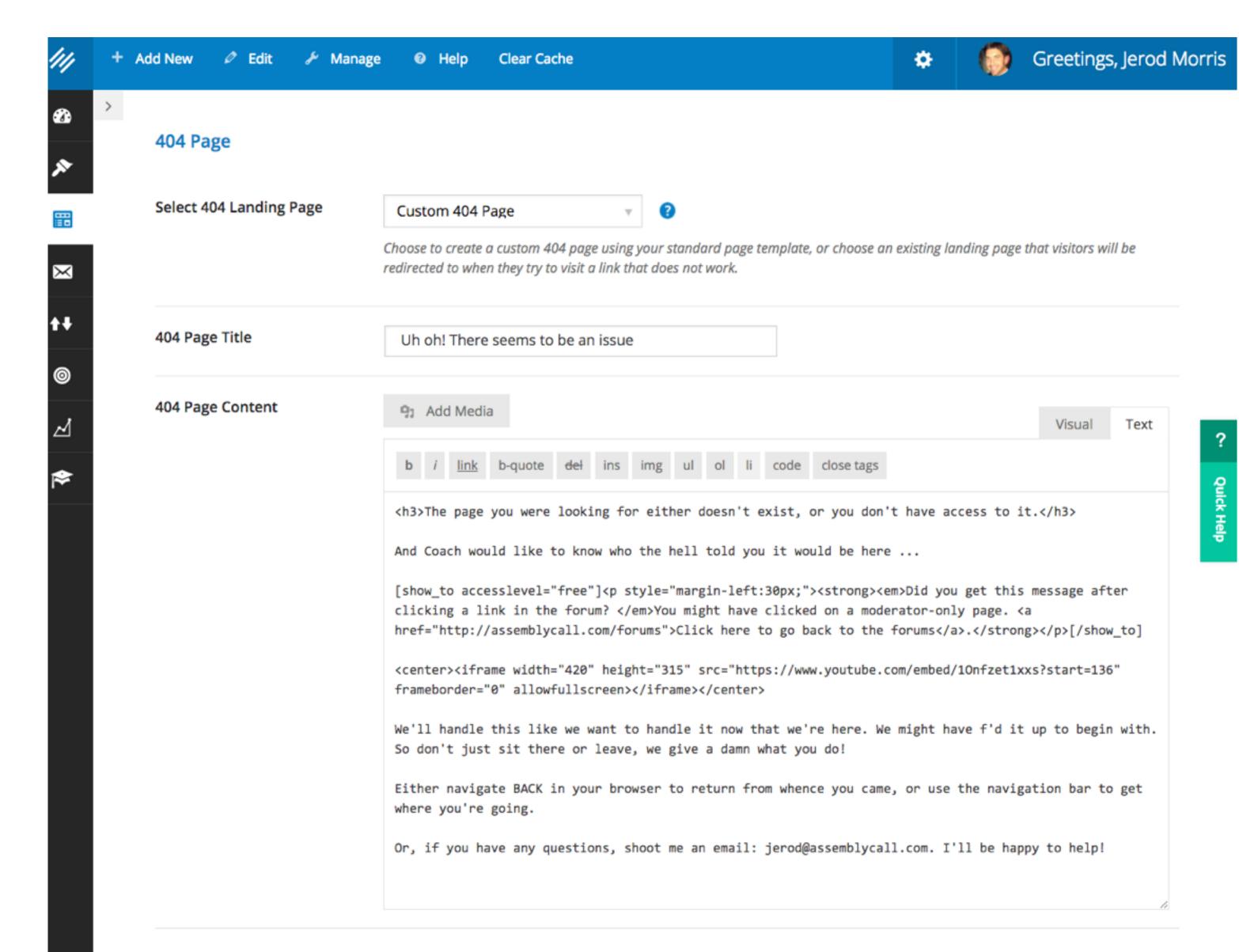
# Custom 404 Page







### Custom 404 Page





# Question 8 (Claire)

What should we do for SEO on landing pages? It is it not necessary? I find that the SEO summary never shows the content having the target term in it.



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What should we do for SEO on landing pages? It is it not necessary? I find that the SEO summary never shows the content having the target term in it.

The SEO for a landing page is no different from any other page. In fact, we should think of *all* pages as landing pages, especially when it comes to optimizing for search and social.





# Question 8 (Claire)

What should we do for SEO on landing pages? It is it not necessary? I find that the SEO summary never shows the content having the target term in it.

As for pages built using Rainmaker's Landing Page tool, the Content Optimizer will *not* always provide accurate results. (This is a bug. It depends on which Content Areas you use.) If you want to check your content with the Optimizer tool, paste it into a regular post or page draft and run the Content Optimizer on it. Then simply delete that draft page.





# Question 9 (Tracie)

My question has to do with the Content Optimizer. I have 14 posts so far. Most are around 1500 words, some are a little over 2000 words and a couple are around 1000 words. I have a page score of 100 on all but one, which has is an 88. The site scores for my main focus key words, emotional eating and mindless emotional eating, range from 38 to 62.

Will my site score go up with more pages and it's just an amount/number of posts content issue or is there something else that I need to do? How much should I be looking at the site score as an indication that I'm on the right track with SEO?





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Will my site score go up with more pages and it's just an amount/number of posts content issue or is there something else that I need to do? How much should I be looking at the site score as an indication that I'm on the right track with SEO?

As you create more content centered on the key term, your site score will go up. This is not a function of pages but of content centered on your keyword(s)





# Question 10 (Jeff)

Hi guys, loving these trainings. My questions: 1. If I apply your advice on best SEO practice to my site, could I still be penalized by Google if the site(s) I link to are not of the same standard? And 2. Is the external backlinks tab (Outreach Options) the way to check?





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Every link on your site passes "link juice" (i.e. your earned authority and trust with search engines) from your site to whatever site is being linked to. So don't waste it on any site you question. This is also the reason why internal linking is important.

If you question the site you are linking to, use the rel=nofollow attribute in your hyperlink. Example: <a href="http://spammysite.biz" rel="nofollow">click here to see an example of a spammy site</a>



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The outreach options are there to help you find sites that you can potentially get links *from*.





# Question 10a (Jeff)

Could you explain more about making anchor text "diverse and more semantically relevant" please? I'm unclear if you are referring to the benefits of using branded and unique type anchors as opposed to exact match or long tail anchors? An example would be useful.

Sure ...











You want your backlinks (links from other sites pointing to your site) to have the following attributes:

1. **Natural** — a survey of your backlinks shouldn't immediately reveal an obvious link "strategy"



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- 3. **Diverse** the way to be semantically relevant *and* natural is for the anchor text from link to link to have diversity
  - Primary keywords
  - Longer-tail keyword phrases
  - "click here"
  - Your URL





http://www.businessaffinity.co.uk/



http://www.businessaffinity.co.uk/

#### Strategy #1

- 1. <u>business consultants in london</u>
- 2. <u>london business consultants</u>
- 3. <u>business consultants in london</u>
- 4. <u>business consultants london</u>
- 5. <u>london business consultants</u>



http://www.businessaffinity.co.uk/

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This link wouldn't be grammatically correct (and would therefore be unnatural) in any sentence or description of your business.



http://www.businessaffinity.co.uk/

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- 5. <u>london business consultants</u>

While this is probably a term that is searched often, it won't often appear naturally in on-page copy. Trust the search engines to know that your site is relevant for this search even without example after example of this specific anchor text linking to your site.



http://www.businessaffinity.co.uk/

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#### "Strategy" #2

- 1. <u>business consultants in london</u>
- 2. <u>businessaffinity.co.uk/</u>
- 3. click here to learn more
- 4. Business Affinity
- 5. this london consulting business



http://www.businessaffinity.co.uk/

Notice the diversity, and how you can easily envision each of these links appearing naturally on a page.

Strategy #1

"Strategy" #2

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# What's next?



# Upcoming Sessions

# How to Leverage Your Traffic Into Better Decisions and More Conversions

Thursday, April 20, 2017 at 4:00 p.m. ET

# Q&A on Leveraging Your Traffic Into Better Decisions and More Conversions

Friday, April 28, 2017 at 2:00 p.m. ET





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