



What I Am Sure About Composing, Writing, and Expression

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- Humans “compose” in their heads all the time, as a natural result of being alive.
- Humans “express” what they “compose” in their heads all the time, as a natural result of being alive.
- The ability to “compose” and then “express” defines us as humans; people come to know what we know and care about—and we come to know them and what they care about—by what we and they “express.”
- “Play” is the most natural way we try out, think through, and work with ideas, both in our heads and with others through what we express. “Joyful Play” leads to flow, learning, and creativity.
- In order to “operate” (i.e., think/compose) in a mature manner, we must first learn to “co-operate” or collaborate with others.
- The expressive aim is “psychologically prior to all other uses of language” (James Kinneavy) and is then re-formed for other purposes and audiences (i.e., Expressive, Informative, and Persuasive).
- The aim of expression, as of living, is to say and do the right thing at the right time.
- Humans are naturally multimodal in their thinking and expression; technology is only catching up with natural human urges to express ideas and thoughts in a variety of modes.
- “Thinking about thinking” (which expression makes increasingly possible) marks the development of higher ordered composing.
- Clear, direct, concise style is goal of the mature author in a democracy.