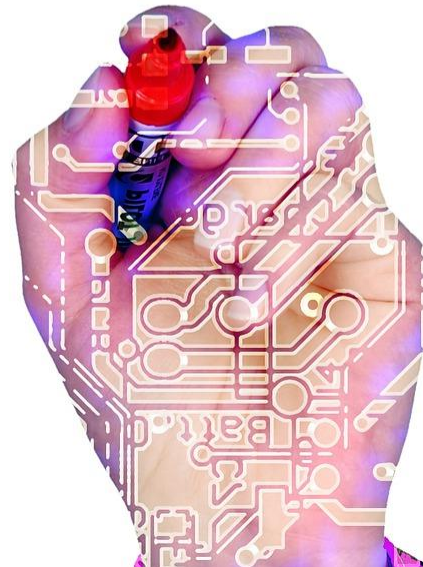


An operational definition of writing

From Module 3 of Writing as Thinking Made Visible

Terry Erle Clayton

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Writing is the process of translating unique, private thoughts into visible and shared sign systems according to conventions of genre and discourse for the purpose of informing, directing, requesting or persuading readers to take a specific action.



Thoughts: subvocalized scripts, scenarios, plans (what I will say, could say, should have said), stories, images, daydreams, fantasies, tunes, feelings...the stream of consciousness



Thinking: processing information such as when we form concepts, engage in problem solving, reasoning and making decisions; thinking is a consciously directed, goal-oriented activity



Private: invisible, inaudible, totally inaccessible to others, cannot be copied or reproduced



Visible and shared sign systems: any spoken and written language such as English, Mandarin, Swahili, but also: Morse code, street signs, Braille, HTML, math symbols, maps



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Genre: a class or category of artistic endeavor having a particular form, content or technique.

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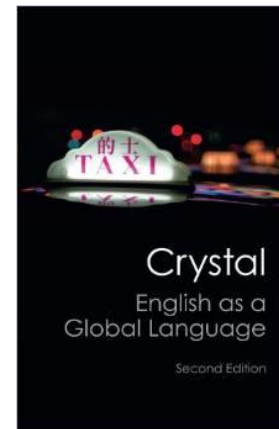
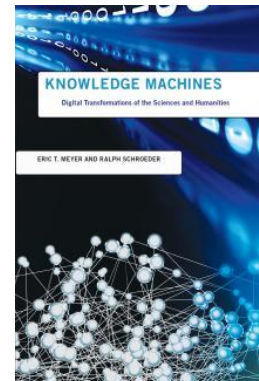
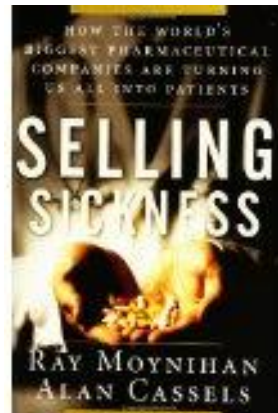
In this section of my library I have popular science , art books, religion, chemistry and development studies.

Photo: Terry Clayton

Discourse: ways of organizing and representing knowledge, together with the social practices, forms of subjectivity and power relations which inhere in such knowledges and relations between them.

Discourses are more than ways of thinking and producing meaning. They constitute the 'nature' of the body, unconscious and conscious mind, and emotional life of the subjects they seek to govern (Weedon, 1987, p. 108).

Popular books about discourse





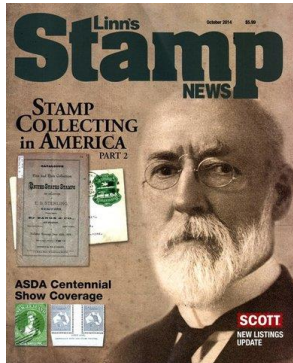
StampAuction
NETWORK

[Stamp of the Day](#) From [The King George V, Admiral Issue, 1911-1931 - Brigham Auctions Ltd. - March 6-7, 2015](#)

Lot 932 - MR2C: 20¢ olive green **DIAGONAL 'WAR TAX'** overprint in **bottom margin partial (OTTAWA)- No - '2'** IMPRINT strip of three with full original gum, stamps mostly lightly hinged and there is an insignificant selvedge bend at lower right, still a fine and very rare IMPRINT PIECE. *Ex - Reiche, Brigham.....Est. C\$350 Sold for C\$ 350*

Every discourse community will have:

- broadly agreed set of common public goals
- mechanisms for communication among members
- participatory mechanisms to provide information and feedback to members
- specific expectations about what topics are appropriate, and who can raise such topics where, when and how
- a specific technical language (what outsiders refer to as jargon)
- a threshold level of members with suitable degree of relevant content and expertise



Two very different discourse communities.

Two very different ways of seeing the world.

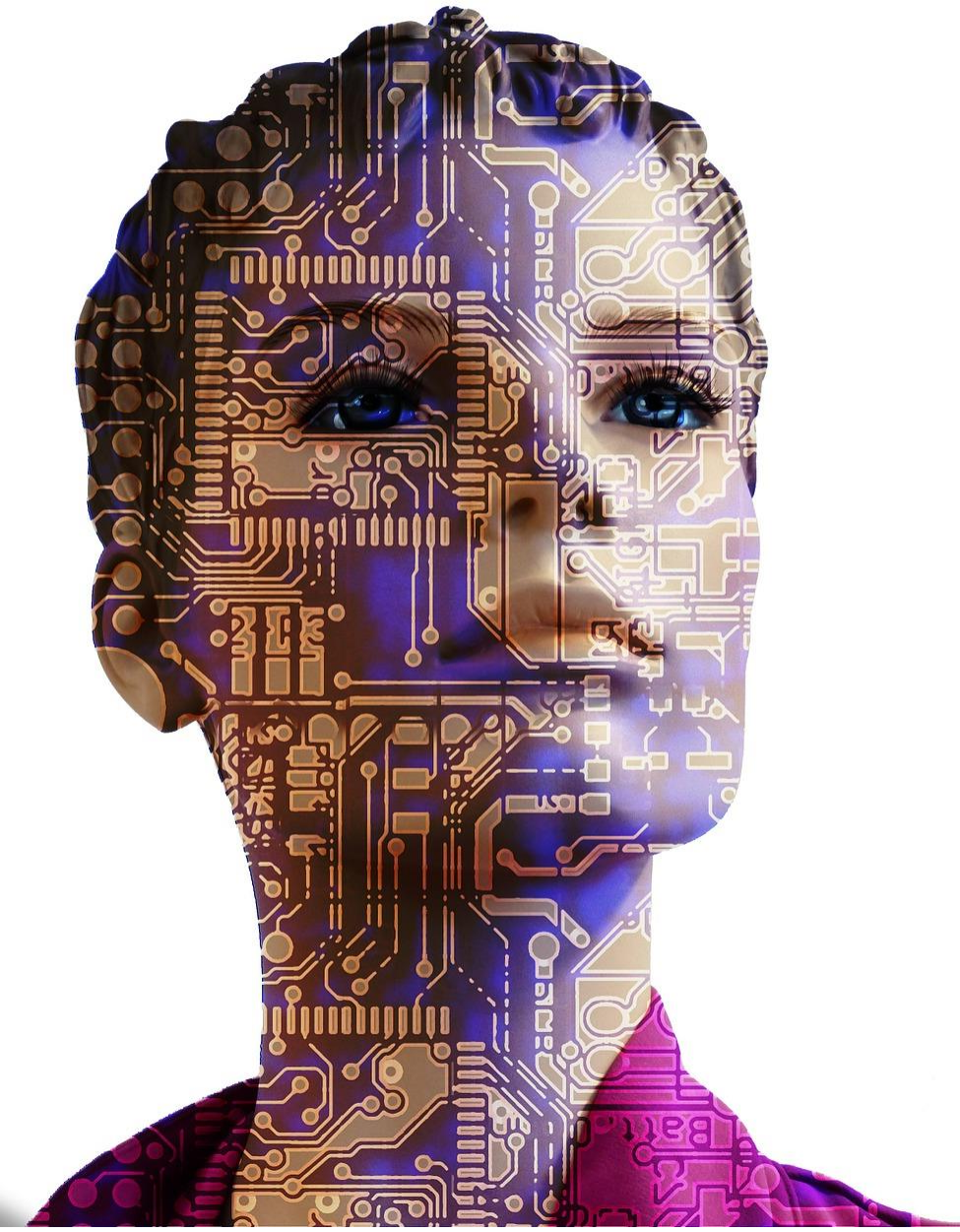
To have any impact, your writing has to take into account the reader's belief system.



Mekong river dam will kill us: protesters tell PM. The Nation. March 23, 2015.



Dams will generate much needed cash for the Lao economy and help meet Southeast Asia's power needs well into the future.



You can sign up for the full *Writing as thinking made visible* course at www.terryerleteaches.com

