

Writing Assignment — Blog & Metadiscourse

Blog

In a group, let each person take a moment to (1) explain the basic gist of their blog post, (2) what they plan on writing about, and (3) whether it has any relation to their discipline. There is no need to be overly detailed. You will want to sort of lay out your idea, and get some verbal feedback. After (1)–(3), the rest of the group should respond with suggestions, questions about clarification, or point to a helpful passage in the text. Doing this will help your classmate sharpen their topic and ultimately get a better grade.

A paper with the blog posts is attached. I tried to respond to everyone's post, and there are some cases where I cross-referenced blog posts. If someone is writing on the same topic as you are, you might want to read their post to get a helpful idea or a passage of text that will strengthen your argument.

Metadiscourse

Metadiscourse is sometimes defined as 'talk about talk'. *Metadiscourse* is language used to refer to the author's degree of a commitment to a proposition (I maintain, I believe, I conclude, I strongly believe), to announce what the author plans to do in a paper (explain, argue, claim, describe, suggest, summarize), or to indicate the organization of the paper (First, Second, Finally).

Introduction #1

In this paper, I will make three points. First, that Descartes claimed that we can be justified in the existence of the external world by introspection. Second, Peirce claimed that there is no evidence for the faculty of introspection. Third, and finally, I will argue that there is evidence for such a faculty and Peirce's arguments fail.

Introduction #2

Descartes thinks that we are justified in the external world. Peirce claimed that there is no evidence for the faculty of introspection. However, there is evidence for this faculty and Peirce's arguments fail.

- Compare these two introductions, identify the metadiscourse (if any) and then discuss which of these two introductions is more effective

Sample Paragraph #1

While Descartes claims that there is a faculty of intuition, he does not support this position with evidence that cannot be also be accounted for by inference from external observation. Although we may feel that we have such a faculty, Peirce provides a variety of different cases (illusions, discerning textures, distinguishing pitch) that *strongly* suggest that this feeling is not sufficient to

establish the faculty's existence. Consider for example the case of illusions produced by a magician. [Explanation of example and sentence explaining why it does not show we have intuition]. Thus, while Peirce's examples do not show that there is *no possibility* of humans having intellectual intuition, the examples do provide a positive case against our having such a faculty.

Sample Paragraph #2

While Descartes claims that there is a faculty of intuition, he does not support this position with evidence that cannot be also be accounted for by inference from external observation. Although we may feel that we have such a faculty, Peirce provides a variety of different cases (illusions, discerning textures, distinguishing pitch) that suggest that this feeling is not sufficient to establish the faculty's existence. Consider for example the case of illusions produced by a magician. [Explanation of example and sentence explaining why it does not show we have intuition]. Thus, Peirce's examples show that humans do not have intellectual intuition and provide a positive case against our having such a faculty.

- Compare these two sample paragraphs. Notice that in the first paragraph, some of the claims made in the paragraph show the level of commitment of the author to his/her position. Sometimes this is called a *hedge*.

Conclusion #1

In conclusion, although Peirce objects to Descartes's claim that there is a faculty of introspection, I maintain that his consideration of cases that suggest such a faculty are too few. A closer consideration of Descartes arguments shows that we do have a faculty of introspection.

Conclusion #2

Although Peirce objects to Descartes's claim that there is a faculty of introspection, his consideration of cases that suggest such a faculty are too few. A closer consideration of Descartes arguments shows that we do have a faculty of introspection.

- Some metadiscourse is unnecessary or superfluous. Here are two conclusions, identify the metadiscourse (if any) and then discuss the strengths or weaknesses of each.