

Say What You Mean: Clarity and the Critical Standpoint In Your Writing

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Find a Point. Be curious.

1. Do your homework (research).
 - Fact-finding.
 - Sense-making.
2. Ontology (what is true?) and Epistemology (how do we know that?).
3. Intellectual honesty.

Getting Help With the Truth: News Literacy.

<http://www.centerfornewsliteracy.org>

What Do You Make of the Facts? What's your opinion?

- Do facts and truth support it?
- What reliable sources will you cite?
- To what extreme — or deficiency — will you express it?
Conservative/Timid → → → → → Bold/Confident
Or: Aristotle's Golden Mean?

What's Your Critical Standpoint?

- What do you hope to achieve?
- Who's your audience?
- Who's your *shadow* audience?
- What tone should you use?

Introduce the Issue. Present the problem or situation.

- Assert your premise clearly.
- No grand tours or throat-clearing.
- Acknowledge opposing views. Dismiss them.
- Take a stand.

Argue Your Position.

Point 1

- Reasoning
- Evidence

Point 2

- Reasoning
- Evidence

Point 3

- Reasoning
- Evidence

What tact are you taking?
What's new or different or refreshing about your ideas?
Why should anyone listen?

Present Your Solution. Save the best for last.

- But do not be passive along the way
- You will lose audience
- Think: punchline