The Debate on the Uses of Practical Theory Continues

Lawrence W. Hugenberg
Youngstown State University

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hensibility, and listening. 2) thinking rhetorically, and 3) delivery skills.

Applying Multiple Intelligences Theory to the Basic Public Speaking Course .......................................................... 90
Kristi A. Schaller, Marybeth G. Callison

This article examines the theory of Multiple Intelligences (MI) (Gardner, 1983; 1993) as it applies to the basic public speaking course. According to MI theory, intelligence is not a single dimension but is a composite of several aptitudes and talents. Gardner believes that individuals possess more than one intelligence, and MI theory defines seven. We argue that the basic public speaking course is an excellent forum for addressing students’ multiple intelligences while teaching oral and written communication skills. This paper introduces MI theory and provides suggested course assignments and activities that correspond with the multiple intelligences.

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The first two essays by Spano and Hickson (Basic Communication Course Annual 8, 1996) involved some crucial issues about where the basic communication course stands in relation to theory, research, and practice. In this second round, specific examples are discussed by Spano. Hickson attempts to contextualize them. Such specificity involves delineating the nature of communication theory from a pragmatic perspective, not ideological from either a phenomenological not a positivistic stance. The importance of context is stressed and outlined as an aspect of human nature—perhaps the element which separates us from other living beings.

Delineating the Uses of Practical Theory:
A Reply to Hickson .............................................................. 105
Shawn Spano