
Miscellany: Writing in Dialogue — I

A Brief Summary on Why I Have Chosen to Change
My Writing Style for at Least a Few Future Entries

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1 Introduction

The title of this entry may be unclear, but I essentially want to try writing in an artificial dialogue form. This is based on the style of the Socratic dialogues, and I think it is far more engaging and useful to flesh out topics in a similar way. An example of a dialogue would be as follows:

BOB: Hey Bill, I don't know what a USB stick is, can you help me?

BILL: Sure thing Bob, USB stands for Universal Serial Bus, and it being a stick just means that it attaches to the aforementioned bus.

BOB: That's great Bill, but I'm not quite sure what a serial bus is, can you help me with that?

BILL: Ah I see, yeah sure. Basically, something that is serial is something that is in a series, one after the other, and a bus is basically another word for pathway. So a serial bus is a channel of information flow where the data is sent through one bit after another.

BOB: My goodness Bill! I would get you a beer if I could, but I had them all last night so sorry about that, but honestly you've made my day, cheers!

Obviously, as you can see, the conversation is probably far more casual than a typical Socratic dialogue.

2 Benefits of Writing in Dialogue Form

I believe there are several benefits to writing in the form of a dialogue, compared to a typical essay (you could say in the form of a monologue). These benefits are as follows:

- Dialogues are more fun to read. I mean, since two parties are at play, their interaction is far more entertaining and engaging to observe compared to a monologue, simply because there is an interaction in the first place.
- People today seem to be quite able to listen to dialogues in podcasts etc. for hours on end whilst taking in that information. This means that even for bigger topics, a longer dialogue is likely more readable than a monologue, and so the size of the written entry is less of an issue.

- A dialogue clearly shows the line of thinking upon a topic. A monologue can only develop to the extent that the writer changes his or her mind half way through, or if the monologue expresses a kind of on the fly thinking. But with a dialogue, the interaction between two parties means that issues and problems are always picked up and developed. Therefore, for topics that have not been at the time of writing thought out towards concrete conclusions, the line of thinking up until that point can still be shown and built upon clearly as a dialogue. With a monologue, mostly you are inclined to show the results of your thinking, but with a dialogue you are more inclined to show how you got those results. This way, the reader can easily understand my line of thinking, which is most important.

All that being said, for expressing clear and concrete thoughts, a monologue (standard essay form) is ideal, such as is used in this very entry. It is probably for more complex topics that a dialogue is more constructive and engaging, since conclusions may be less clear or in development, but still holding valuable statements on the way to those conclusions.

3 How I Will Write in Dialogue Form

And so, in light of the benefits outlined in the previous section, here I will explain how I have chosen to write in dialogue form for future entries.

First of all, the dialogues that I will write will be artificial, meaning that all the characters in them are fictional. However, everything the characters say will be my one line of thinking. Characters may say things that I do not think, but that is me playing the devil's advocate upon myself. The aim of the dialogues is to test and question ideas so that only the consistent ones remain. It is these consistent ideas that will most likely be true.

The characters that I will use will be named Fincleah and Actun. These are Old English names of areas in London which hold special meaning to me, making them quite fitting. Fincleah will be the primary questioner, akin to the Socratic questioner in Socratic dialogues. Actun will be the primary proposer of ideas, often acting as the person interrogated in a Socratic dialogue.

And that's it! With this, I hope to tackle quite complex topics, but also those which may cause some tension in today's society. The reason that I choose to tackle such topics in this form is that a dialogue's main aim isn't to make conclusions, but to make the parties involved understand every step of the other's thinking that occurs. This is as it should be for controversial topics, since it is most key for people to understand where others are coming from, as opposed to trying to stuff conclusions down peoples' throats. It is the stuffing of conclusions down peoples' throats

that is what I can't help but see more and more today, especially with the online environment, and so dialogue is a perfect antidote it would seem.

Thank you for reading.

END