



# WRITING PRACTICE[S]

UWRT 150 Shaw 2023

# WHAT IS PRACTICE?

- Practice, as a verb

to perform (an activity) or exercise (a skill) repeatedly or regularly in order to improve or maintain proficiency.

carry out or perform (a particular activity, method, or custom) habitually or regularly.

- Practice, as a noun

the actual application or use of an idea, belief, or method, as opposed to theories relating to it

the customary, habitual, or expected procedure or way of doing of something



# WRITING PRACTICE

10-minute Writing Practices Inventory

- Column #1 – Writerly Practices

What are the things you “do” as a writer?

What are some things you try to avoid doing?

- Column #2 – A Writer’s Practice

What words describe you as a writer?

Who are you trying to be when you write?

# DISCUSSION

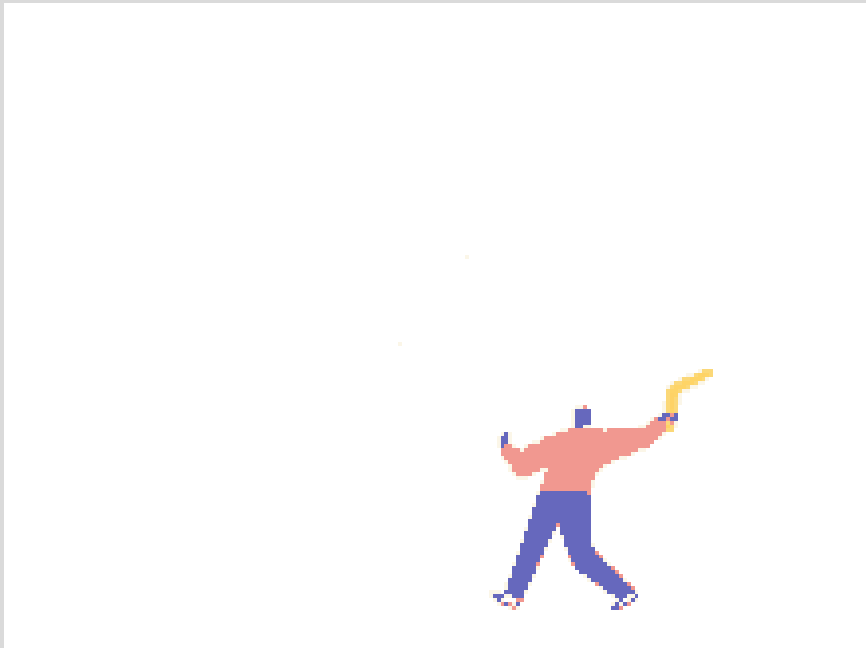




# DISCUSSION



# UNIFYING PRACTICE AND PRACTICE



- What you **practice** as a writer defines your **practice** as a writer, in part
- What you **don't practice** as a writer defines your **practice** as a writer, in part
- You are what you eat, but you're not actually food

## Theory of Knowledge

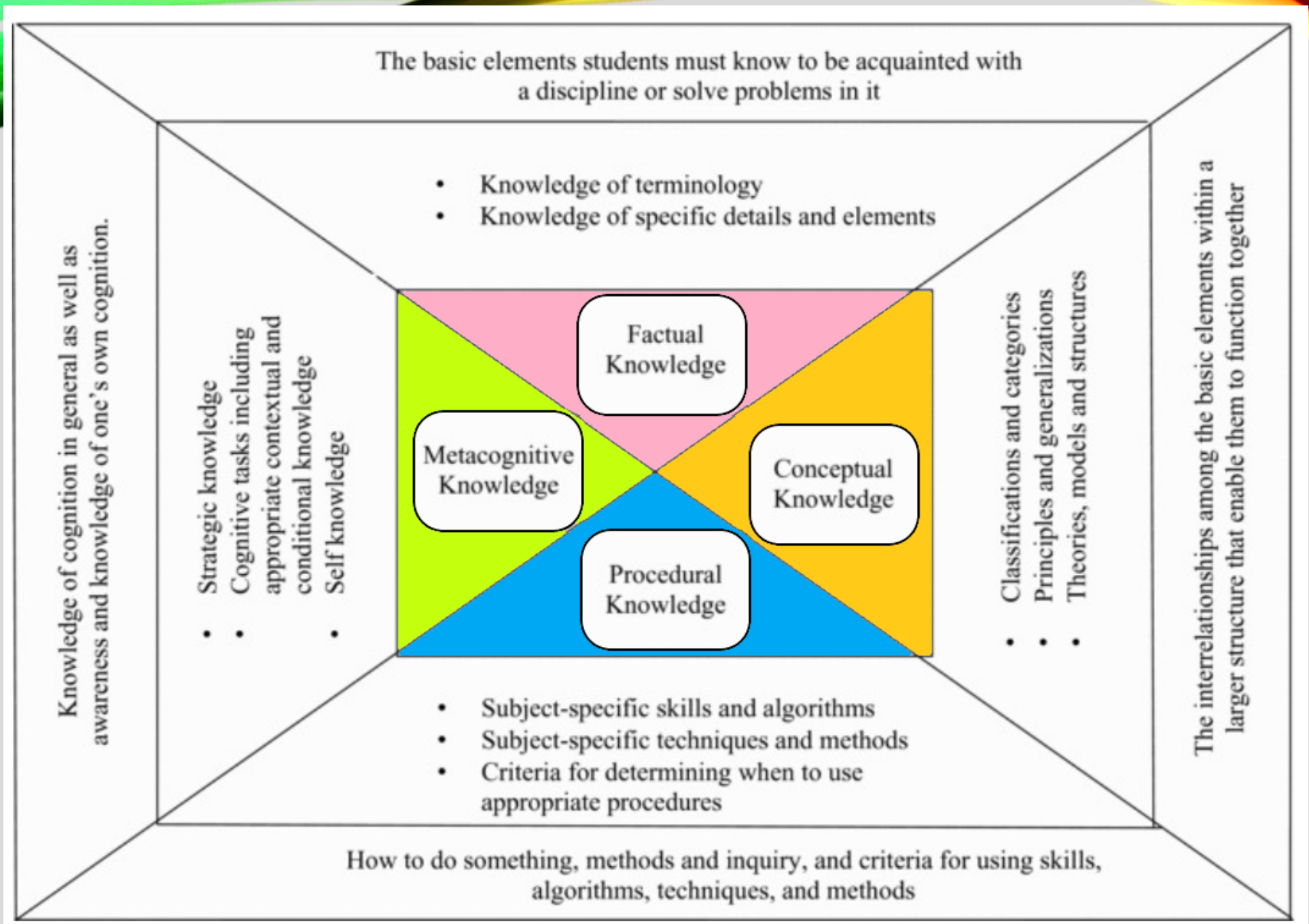
Leveraging all types of knowledge

Developing?

Balancing?

Transferring?

*adapted from  
Krathwohl (2002)*



## Confidence and Competence

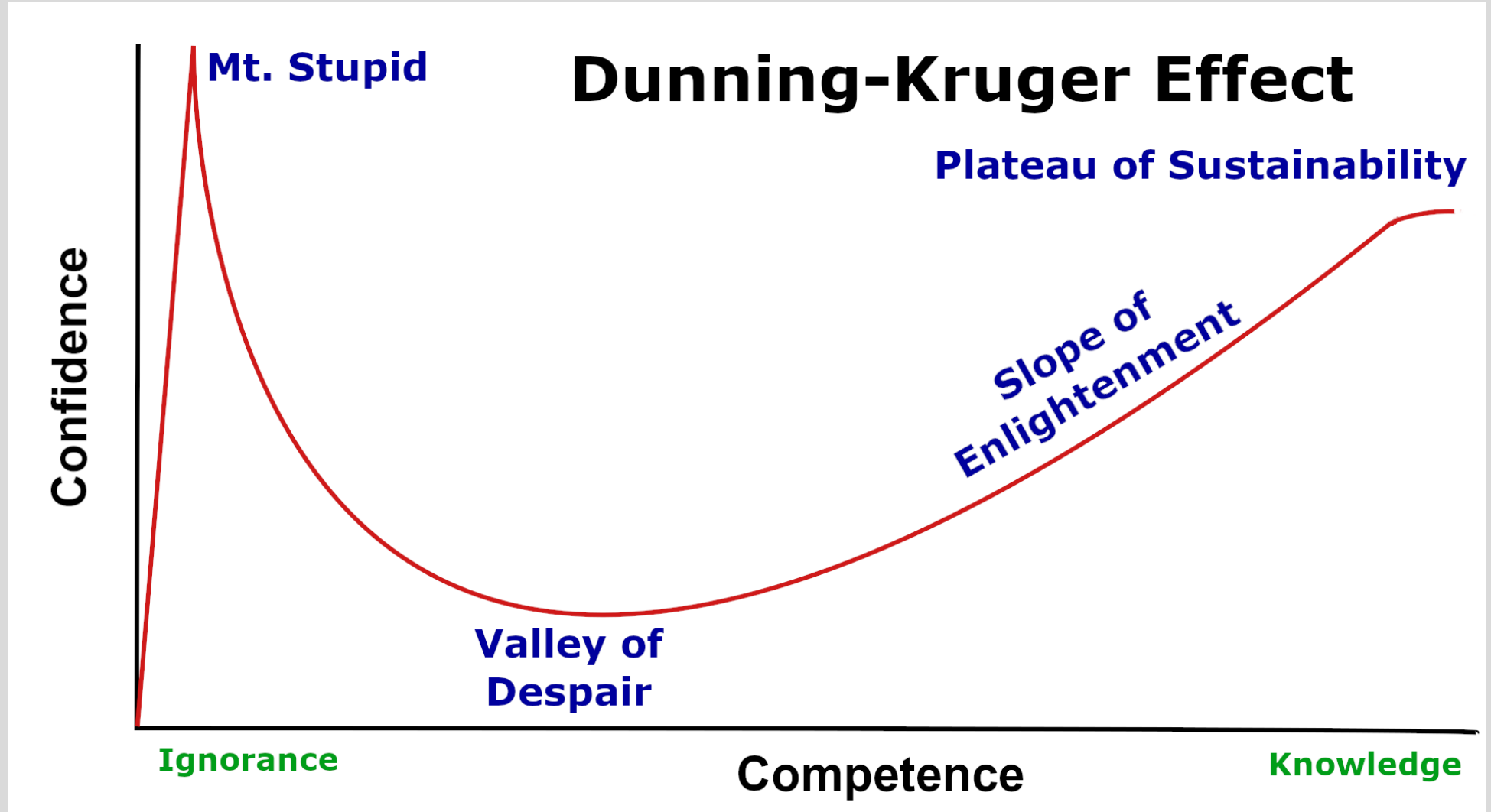
Evaluating expertise

Assessing performance

Persistence

Identity

*adapted from  
Dunning and  
Kruger (1999)*





# Ontology – Part of Philosophy

## *The three areas of Philosophy*

*Directly influence teaching theory and practice*



**Ontology = Questions about Existence and Being**

## PRACTICE AS AN ONTOLOGICAL QUESTION?

What does it mean to **ontologically BE** a writer?

How is that question informed by the other areas of **epistemology** and **axiology**?



# WRITING CENTER WORK AS PRACTICE

How does what we do define who we are?

Our “valued”/best practices

## Category 1: Organize the Work

- Learn the rhetorical situation
- Address writer's concerns
- Set flexible meeting expectations and how to spend time
- Work together to prioritize global concerns
- Discuss, offer, and collaborate on ideas for revision
- Assist in making plans for after the consultation



# WRITING CENTER WORK AS PRACTICE

How does what we do define who we are?

Our “valued”/best practices

## Category 2: Involve the Writer

- Engage the writer’s understanding of writing as a process
- Look for opportunities to learn from the writer
- Active listening, shared talk
- Make space for the writer’s learning



# WRITING CENTER WORK AS PRACTICE

How does what we do define who we are?

Our “valued”/best practices

## Category 3: Teach Instead of Tell

- Use and explain writing resources
- Avoid role of editor or authority
- Don't pretend expertise
- Use examples to demonstrate concepts
- Address repeating patterns





# WRITING CENTER WORK AS PRACTICE

How does what we do define who we are?

Our “valued”/best practices

## Category 4: Encourage the Writer

- Be receptive to the writer's rhetorical and emotional concerns
- Establish rapport through tone and body language
- Instill confidence with positive reinforcement
- Make space for the writer to work
- Invite writer to return to WC



# WRITING CENTER WORK AS PRACTICE

How does what we do define who we are?

Our “valued”/best practices

## Category 5: Maintain an Accessible Space

- Solicit feedback and talk about our space
- Establish clear and welcoming signage
- Be conscious and respectful of differences
- Work with students to ensure access



# WRITING CENTER WORK AS PRACTICE

How does what we do define who we are?

Our “valued”/best practices

## Category 6: Maintain Inquiry

- Continue to evolve our individual and collective practice
- Draft and review self-reflective session notes
- Foster a sense of community
- Continue active professional development

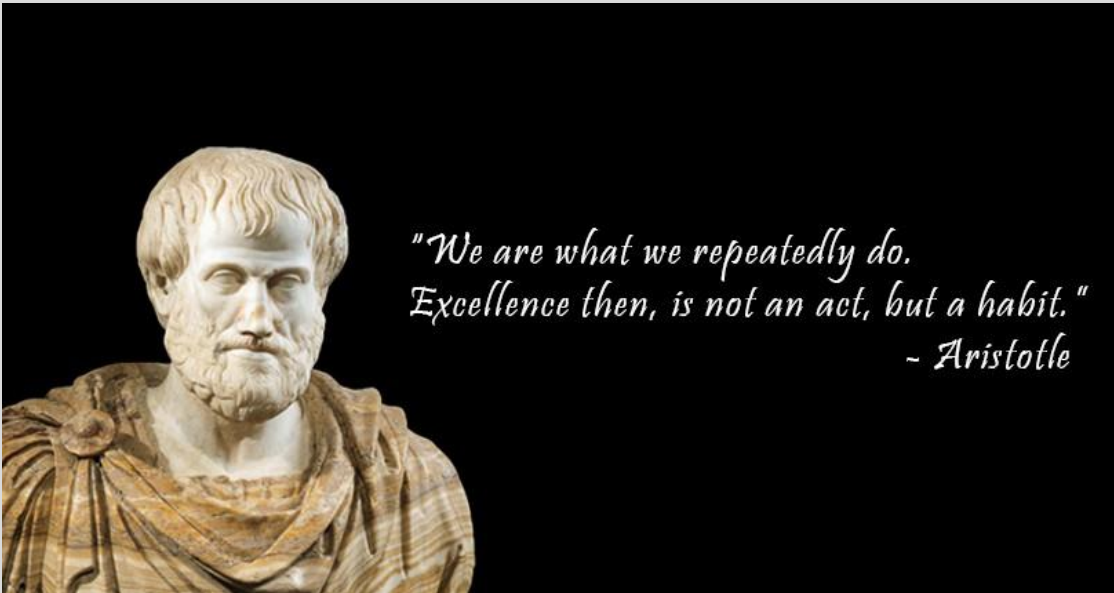
# FROM PRACTICE TO PRAXIS

Origins from *Classical Theory*

Theoria = Thinking

Poiesis = Making

Praxis = Doing





# FROM PRACTICE TO PRAXIS



Evolution in *Social Epistemic Theory*

We must “use theory to challenge common sense understandings [*Good Intentions*] and to move writing centers into productive engagement with the conflicts in literacy education”

Nancy Grimm, 1999



# FINAL THOUGHTS

...once I pass 15 slides I'm like "enough already" though there is always more to say. What'd I miss? Questions?

- Practice (v.) and Practice (n.) work together but are not synonymous
- Praxis puts theory into action, doing
- A person's [blank] practice is reflective of their ideology and identity (NWWK Ch. 3)