

WRITING PRACTICE[S]

UWRT 150 Shaw 2023

WHAT IS PRACTICE?

- Practice, as a verb

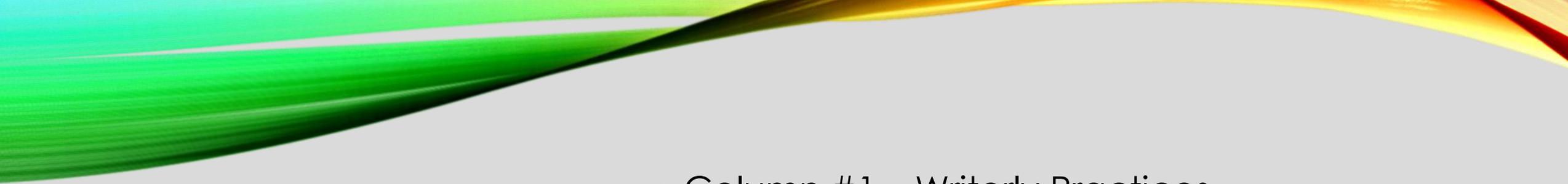
to perform (an activity) or exercise (a skill) repeatedly or regularly in order to improve or maintain proficiency.

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?

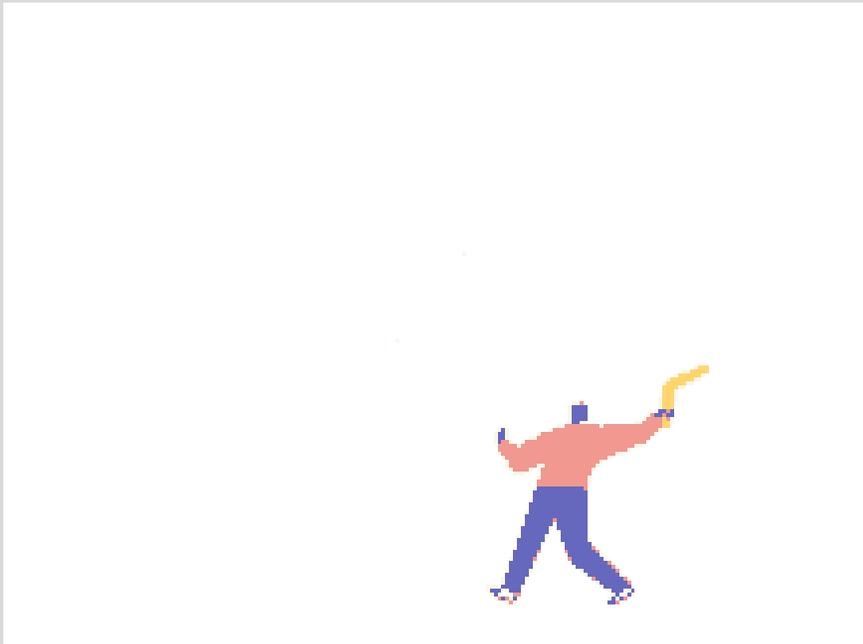
DISCUSSION



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

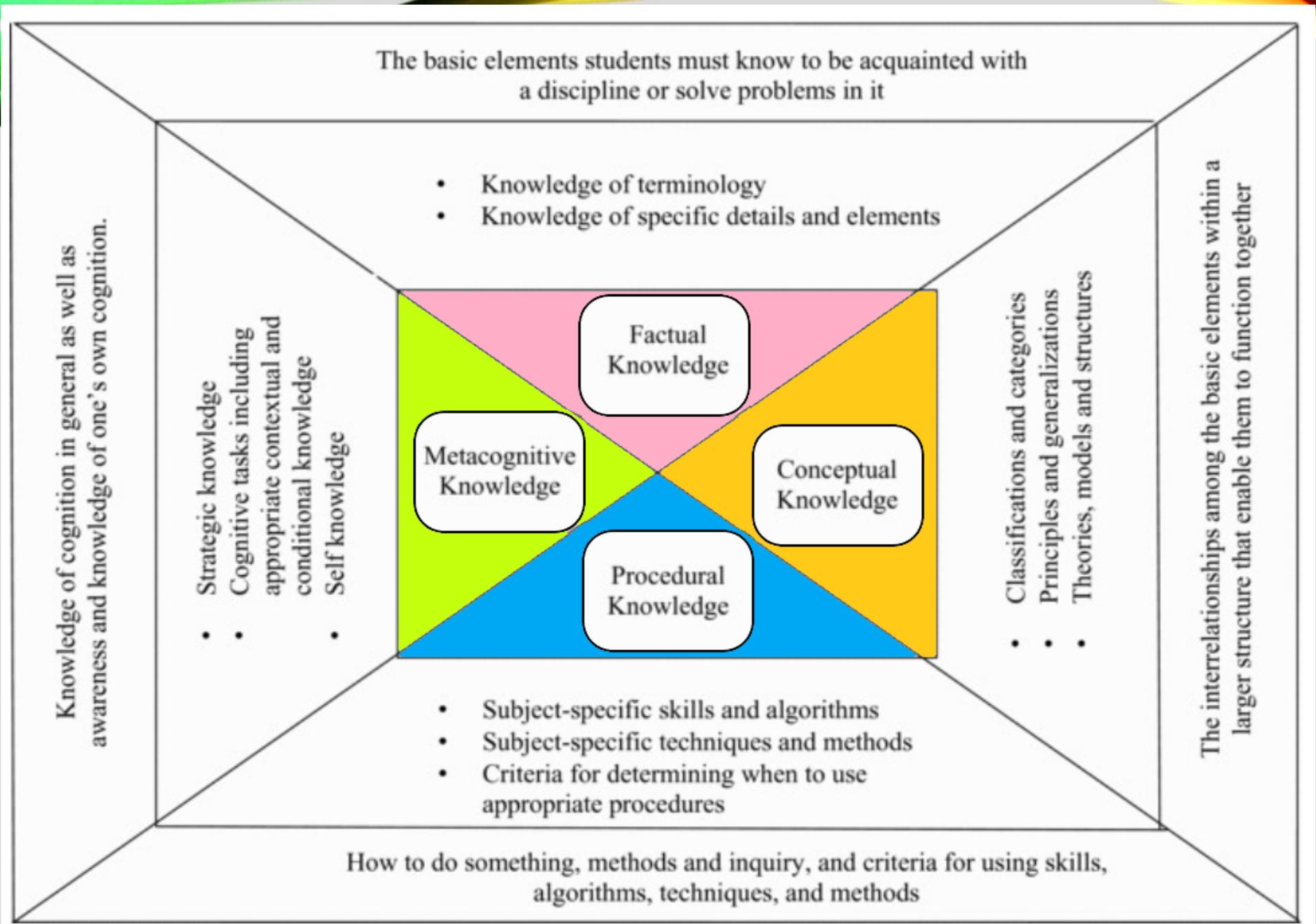
Leveraging all types of knowledge

Developing?

Balancing?

Transferring?

adapted from Krathwohl (2002)



Confidence and Competence

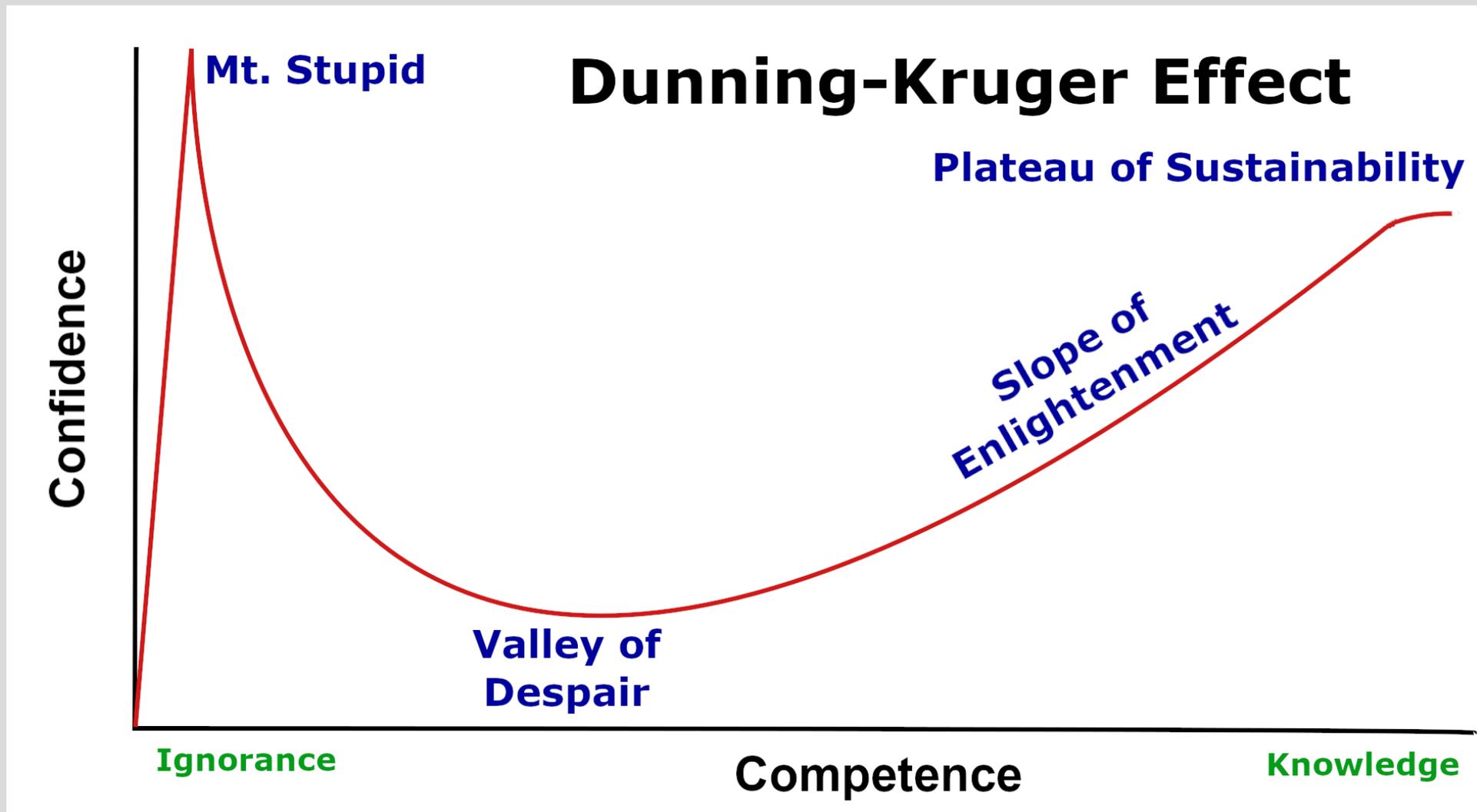
Evaluating expertise

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

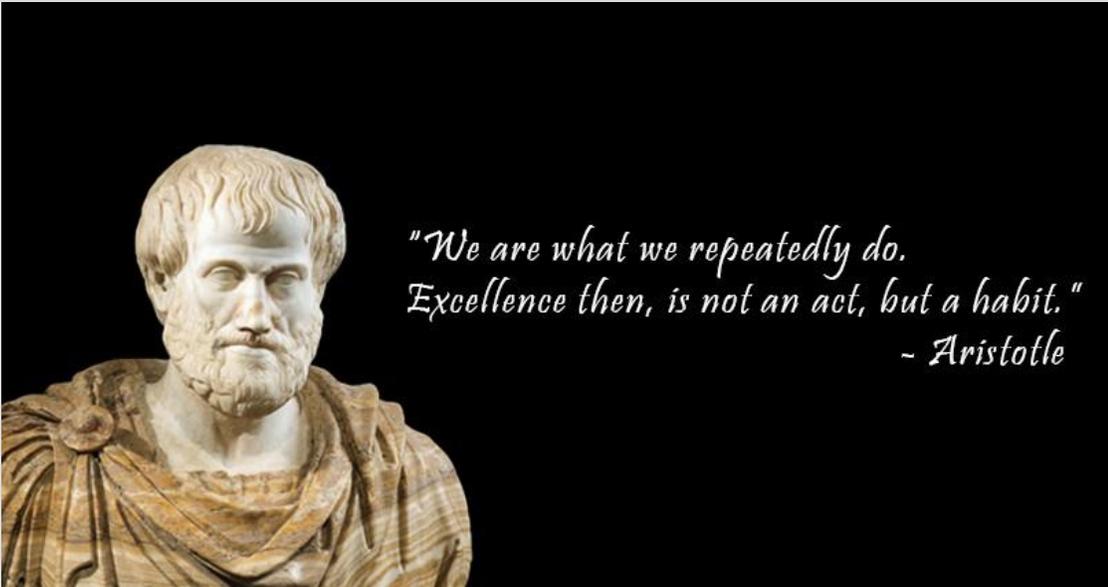
FROM PRACTICE TO PRAXIS

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)