The Post-Critical Belief Scale

Theology in practice Workshop
8th November, 2016
Beginning with the end in mind...

Learning Intention:
• To develop a deep understanding of the Post-Critical Belief Scale.

Success Criteria:
• I can explain how each axis represents a range of perspectives
• I can explain how each quadrant interprets a text
• I have considered my own beliefs and where they might fit on this scale
Belief and Disbelief

Our belief or disbelief about anything depends on...

- Our existing knowledge
- Our values
- Our upbringing
- Cultural paradigms
Belief and Disbelief

How would you summarise the beliefs of the following people? Where would you place them on the belief/disbelief axis?

1. A conspiracy theorist?
2. A NASA technician?
3. Someone who watched the moon landing?
4. Your personal opinion?
   What is your justification?
   What values and experiences have caused you to believe this way?
Symbolic and Literal

How we interpret the world depends on...

• Our existing knowledge
• Our values
• Our upbringing
• Cultural paradigms

Literal

“Sorry officer, I interpreted the sign symbolically…”

Symbolic

“Oh, my love is like a red, red rose…”
Symbolic and Literal

The Sydney Morning Herald. (8th of May 1915)

Some questions worth considering:

1. Why did it take so long so for the news to be relayed home to Australia?

2. Did the reporter have an agenda?

3. Has the story had a positive impact on Australia?
Move and Discuss: Symbolic and Literal

How might each of the following people interpret the front page of the Sydney Morning Herald on the 8th of May, 1915? Where would you place them on the literal/ symbolic axis?

1. A War Veteran
2. A Historian
3. The Prime Minister
4. A Year Three student
5. A Turkish person
6. Your personal view

What values and experiences have caused you to believe this way?
The Quadrants

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The Quadrants (Using Shampoo)
Response: The Quadrants

Literal

I need that shampoo now. It’s obviously the best, clearly if I use the shampoo I will look very beautiful, just like that girl.

This ad is unrealistic; Nobody dresses like that; nobody talks like that. It has clearly been digitally enhanced. It is not real and therefore it doesn’t apply to me, anyone who buys this shampoo has no grasp of reality.

Symbolic

The scientific or historical accuracy of this ad is not as important as its message. This text had human authors with particular perspectives and values.

I want to keep my hair clean and there is wisdom in this ad that I can use in order to do that.

I can see that this is a persuasive text, it is not realistic but that’s not its purpose. This ad might be useful to people who have dirty hair, but my hair doesn’t get dirty. This shampoo, another one, no shampoo. Who cares?
Response: Nativity

How might this scene be interpreted in the four different quadrants?
The Quadrants and the Nativity

LITERAL BELIEF

EXTERNAL CRITIQUE

POST-CRITICAL BELIEF
(Preferred belief position)

RELATIVISM
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