

Handout for Session DD7J
Janice (Ginny) Redish
Writing as an Asynchronous Conversation

The four maxims of conversation
from the work of H. P. Grice

Maxim of Quality (Truth)

- Do not say what you believe to be false.
- Do not say that for which you lack adequate evidence.

Maxim of Quantity (Information)

- Make your contribution as informative as is required for the current purposes of the exchange.
- Do not make your contribution more informative than is required.

Maxim of Relation (Relevance)

- Be relevant.

Maxim of Manner (Clarity)

- Avoid obscurity of expression.
- Avoid ambiguity.
- Be brief.
- Be orderly.

See http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gricean_maxims