

Writing to Understand

With respect to the inexperienced reader Bean speaks of the failure to appreciate various modes of bias in media sources. There is also the issue of having little knowledge of what Bean calls “Cultural Literacy” of the writer. Though these may not be one in the same issue yet they are closely related in the case of my text of choice.

Within the community of the US Military there is an adage which is well known but probably never admitted publicly; “200 years of tradition undeterred by progress”. There is a significant leaning toward “the old days” in the thinking of leadership. I apologize for having nothing more than my own twelve and a half years in the military and twenty three years as a DOD contractor as my reference.

In order to comprehend the intricate and convoluted processes of the monolithic institution that the DOD is, one must see that the management is steeped in a tradition of conservative thinking. This school of thought breeds a sense of risk aversion, a fear of trying something new and different. A glance at the Navy’s grooming standards is to step back in time. Though this only applies to the way the individual looks yet it is telling of what is deep inside their mindset.

Once the uninitiated become aware of this they might understand why there is about 8 years between the earliest and latest of the three studies with no evidence of continuity between the two. Also, the latter two were developed during the same time period. This indicates that there is an apparent lack of team work within the DOD on top of the sluggish pace of system development.

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