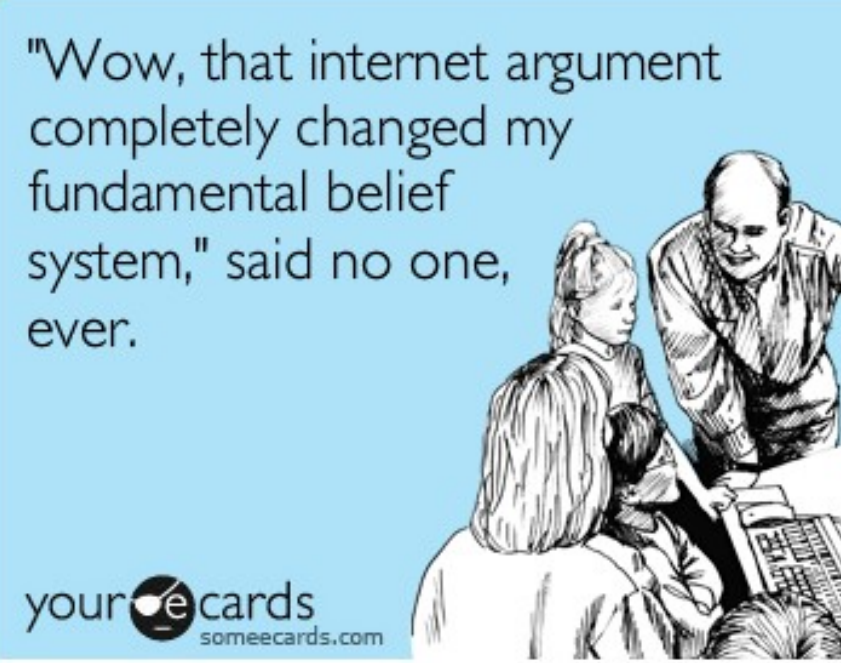
Change my View?

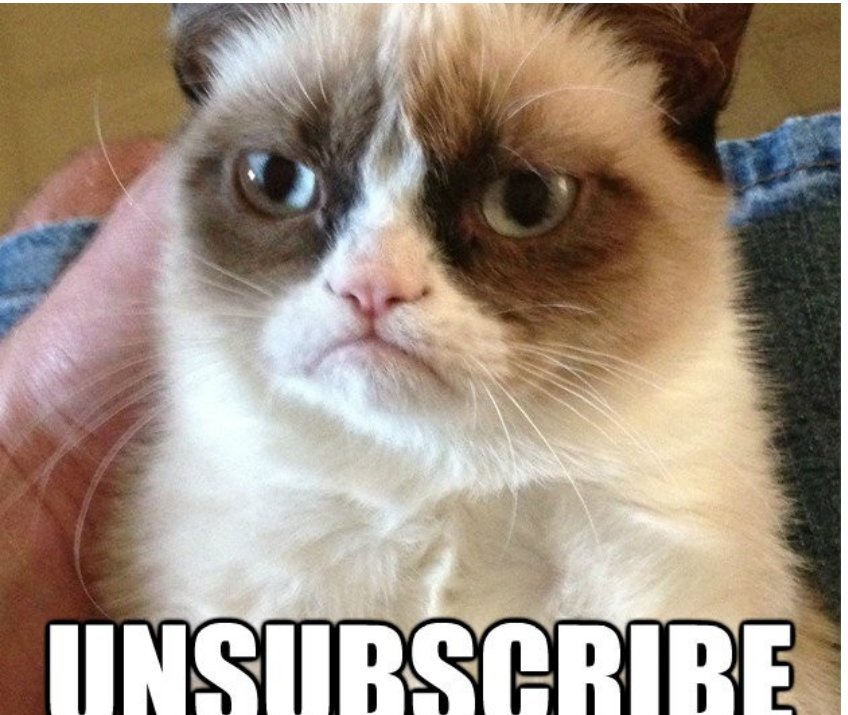
a Digital-Hermeneutics Approach to Dialogism in Online Culture

Inge van de Ven
DH Colloquium,
13 Sept 2023


"Wow, that internet argument completely changed my fundamental belief system," said no one, ever.
yourecards
someecards.com

Show All Lists...
New List...
Unfriend

ARE YOU COMING TO BED?
I CAN'T. THIS IS IMPORTANT.
WHAT?
SOMEONE IS WRONG ON THE INTERNET.

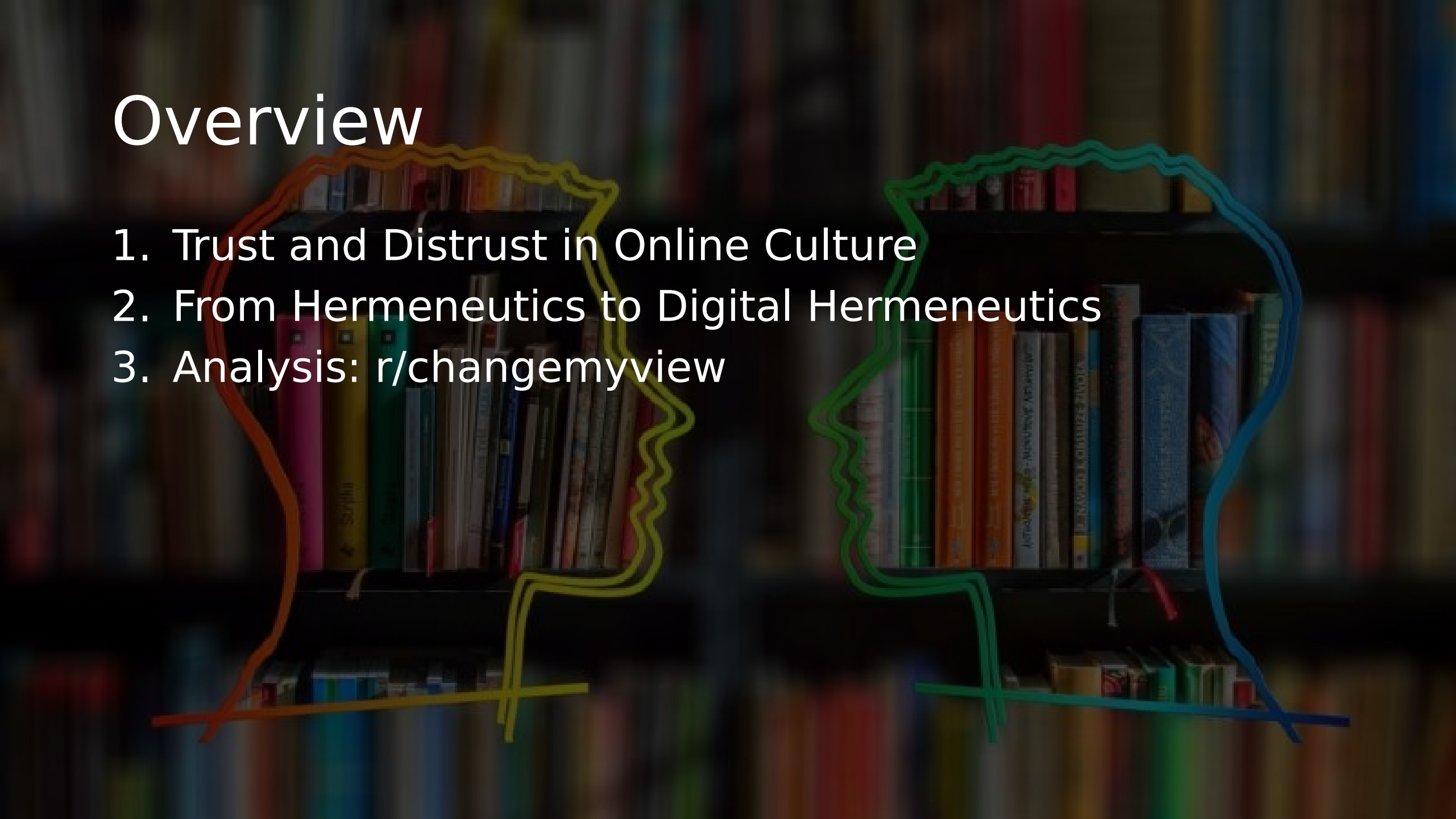

UNSUBSCRIBE

some of y'all i don't know who needs to hear this but let that sink in just saying and it shows y'all not ready for that conversation

Don't @ Me

Overview

1. Trust and Distrust in Online Culture
2. From Hermeneutics to Digital Hermeneutics
3. Analysis: r/changemyview



Hermeneutics

- Study of interpretative practices, including reflection on interpretation itself
- “Interpretation would be impossible if expressions of life were completely strange. It would be unnecessary if nothing strange were in them” (Dilthey, 1914–2005, Vol.7, 225).
- Bible, Homeric allegory, Dante: double layers

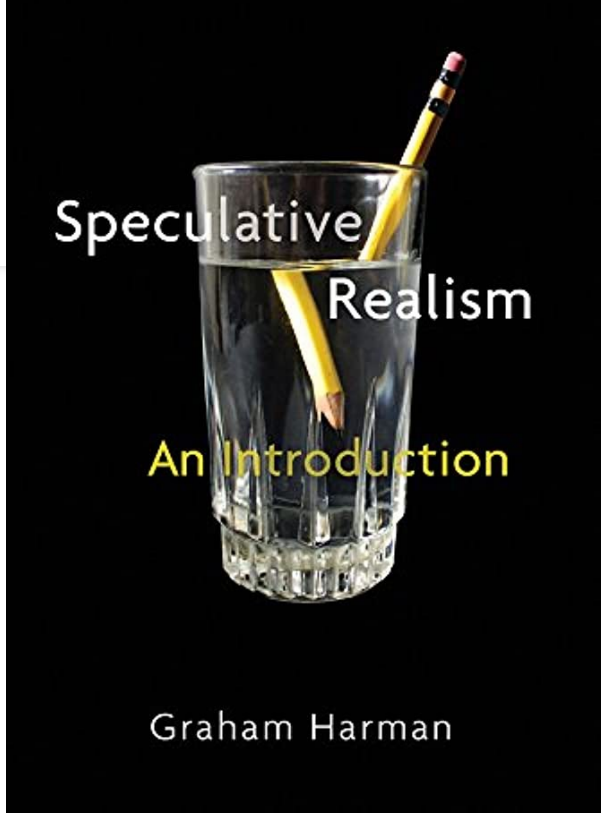
Chapter 4

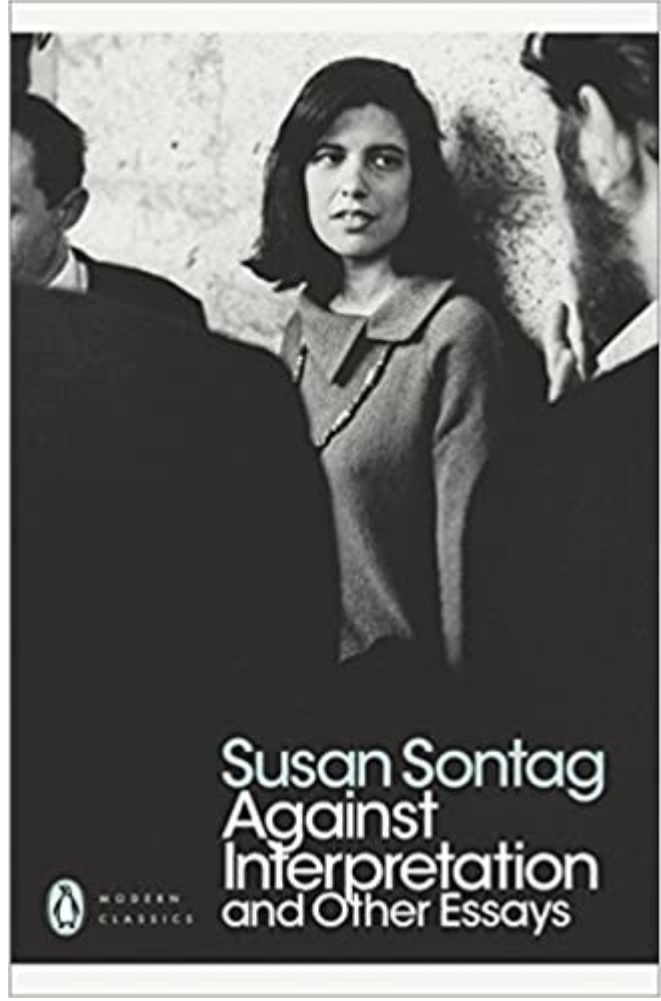
PARANOID READING AND REPARATIVE READING,
OR, YOU'RE SO PARANOID, YOU PROBABLY THINK
THIS ESSAY IS ABOUT YOU

KIENE BRILLENBURG WURTH

The Material Turn in Comparative Literature: An Introduction

STEPHEN BEST AND SHARON MARCUS





Surface Reading: An Introduction

Reading "The Way We Read Now"

THE TITLE OF THIS SPECIAL ISSUE raises many

Close but not Deep: Literary Ethics and the Descriptive Turn

Heather Love

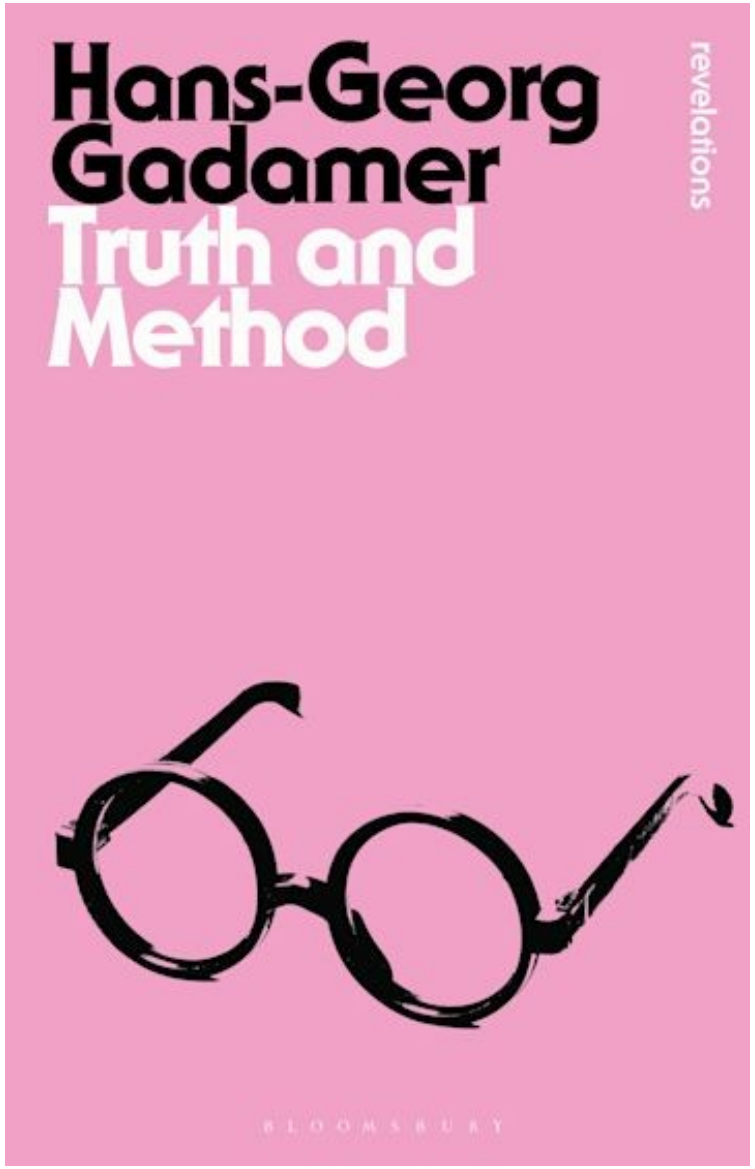
Hermeneutics of Suspicion in Online Culture

Hermeneutics of Faith in Online Culture

Dialogical Hermeneutics

•What characterizes a dialogue ... is precisely this: that in dialogue spoken language—in the process of question and answer, giving and taking, talking at cross purposes and seeing each other's point—performs the communication of meaning that, with respect to the written tradition, is the task of hermeneutics. (361)

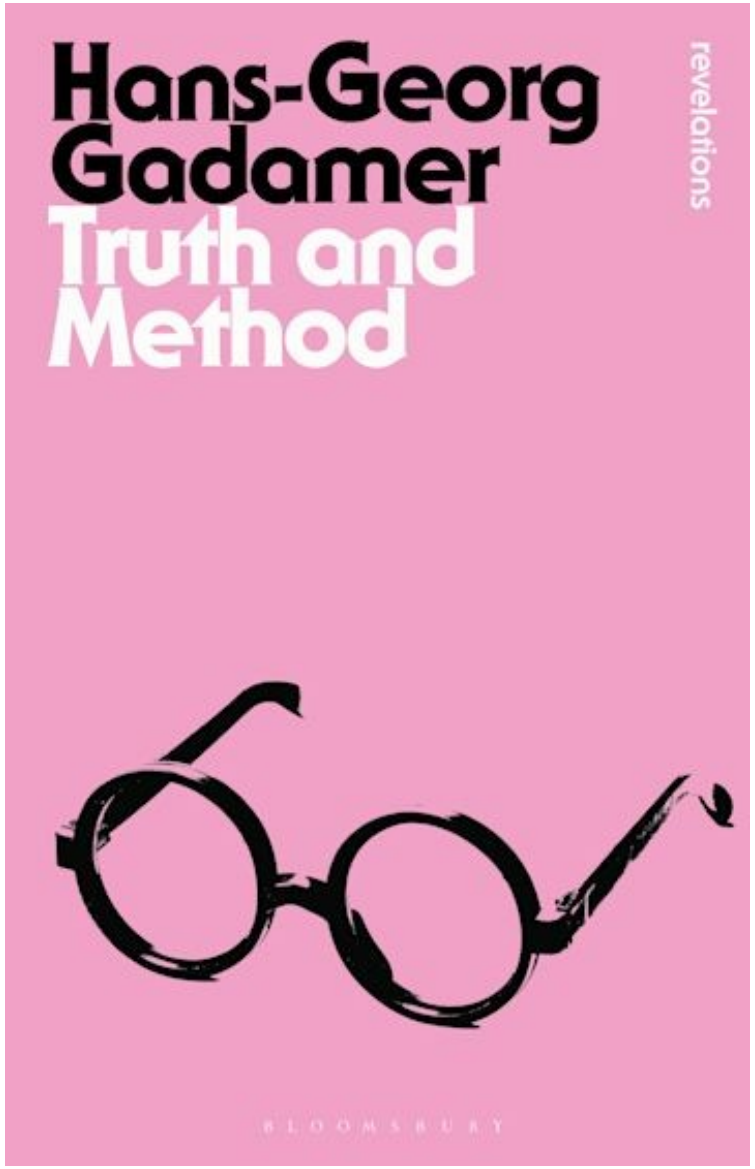
- Fusion of horizons



Dialogical Hermeneutics

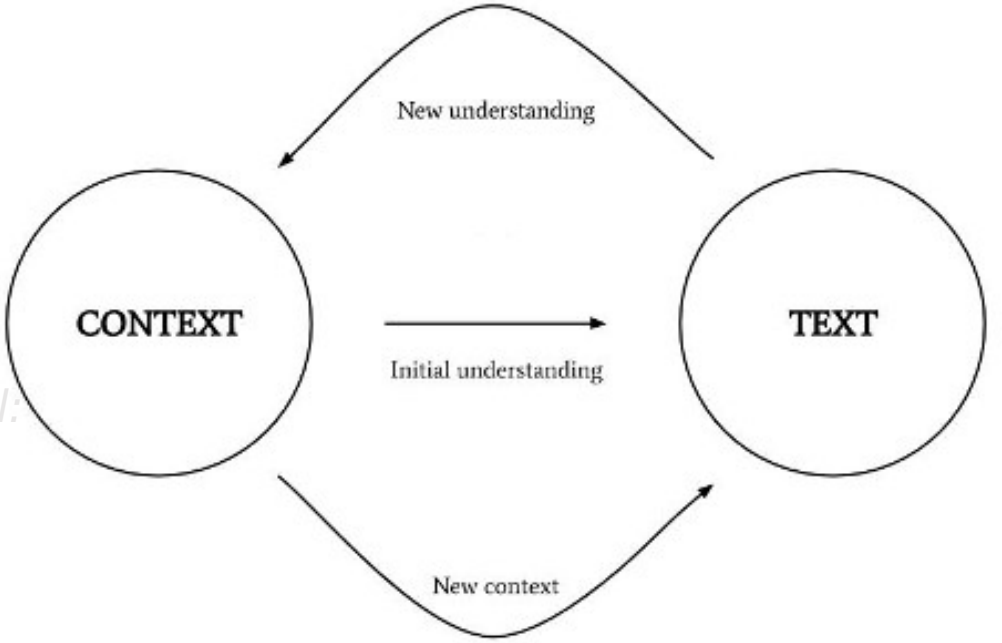
- “the circle of whole and part is not dissolved in perfect understanding but, on the contrary, is most fully realized” (1960: 293)

- What could such a dialogue look like in online culture today, in which the **ideological distance** between interpreter and text is not primarily an **obstacle**, but rather a **source of productivity**?



Scaled Reading

1. *Platform hermeneutics:* what are the specific affordances of the respective platforms; how do they afford modes of self-expression and sociality?
2. *Contextual reading*: what is the contextual horizon against which we can understand the linguistic particularity of the corpus? *term frequency - inverse document frequency (TF–IDF). Tool: Voyant.*
3. *Distant reading:* most important themes? *topic modelling*, *Tool: Voyant.*
4. *Hyper-reading:* in what context do we find these discursive particularities and themes in the corpus? *Tool: Concordance views, Antconc.*
5. *Close reading:* what are the stylistic characteristics, internal tensions and conflicts? *Close, human reading of a 'telling case'*.



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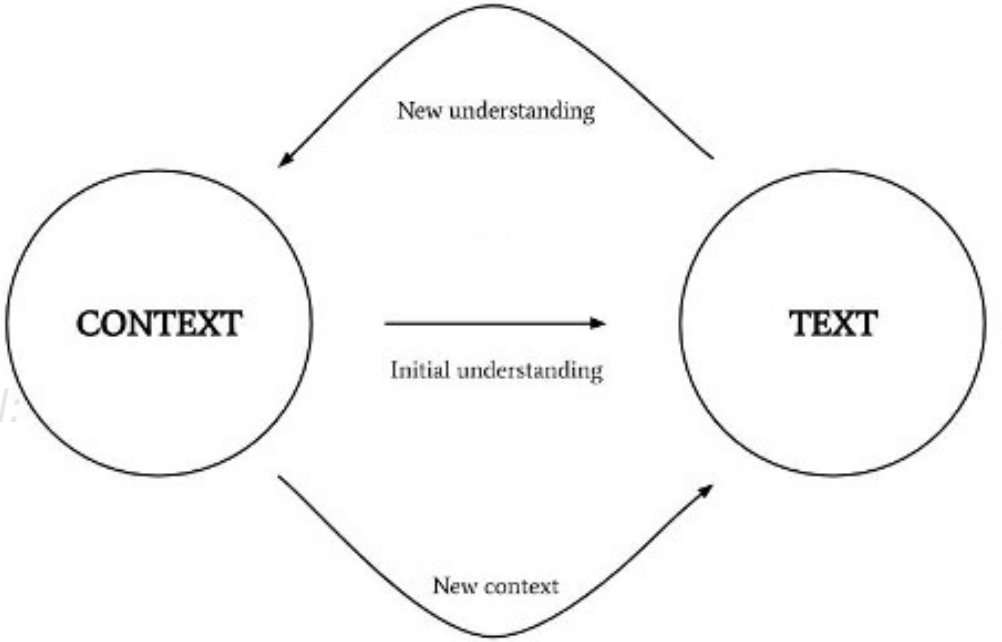

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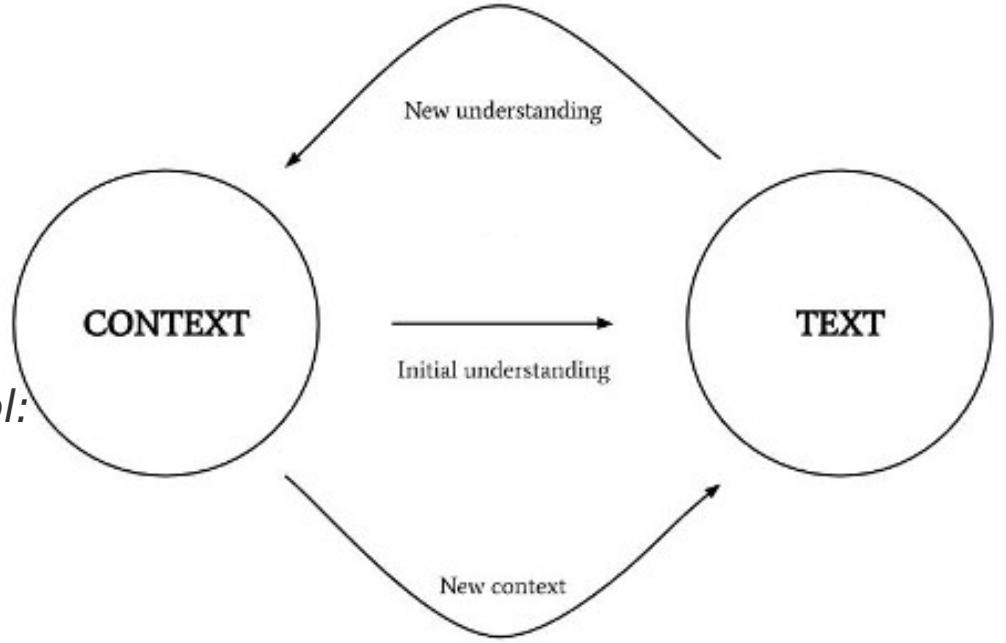

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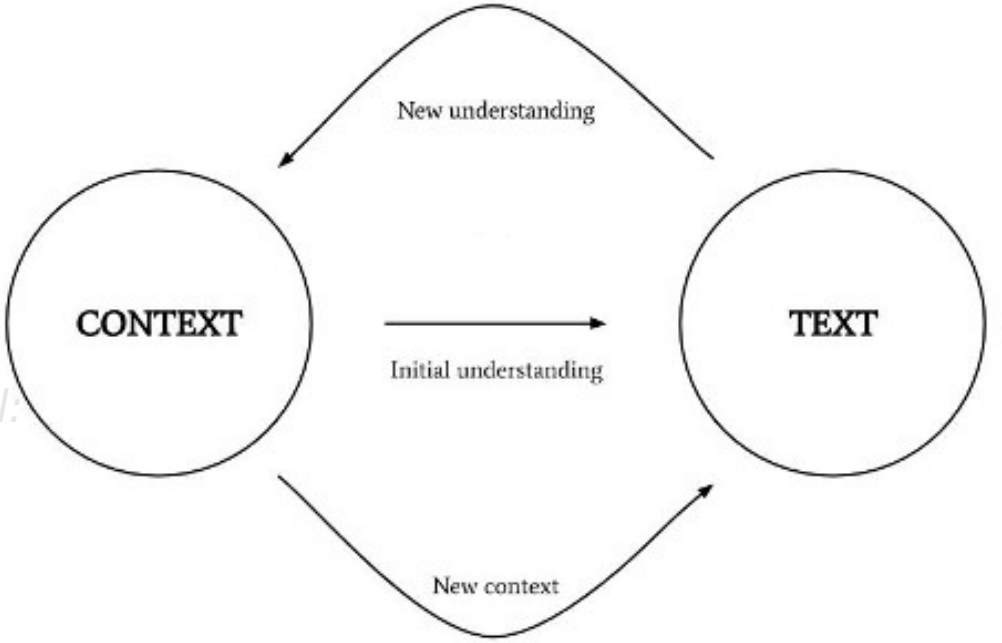

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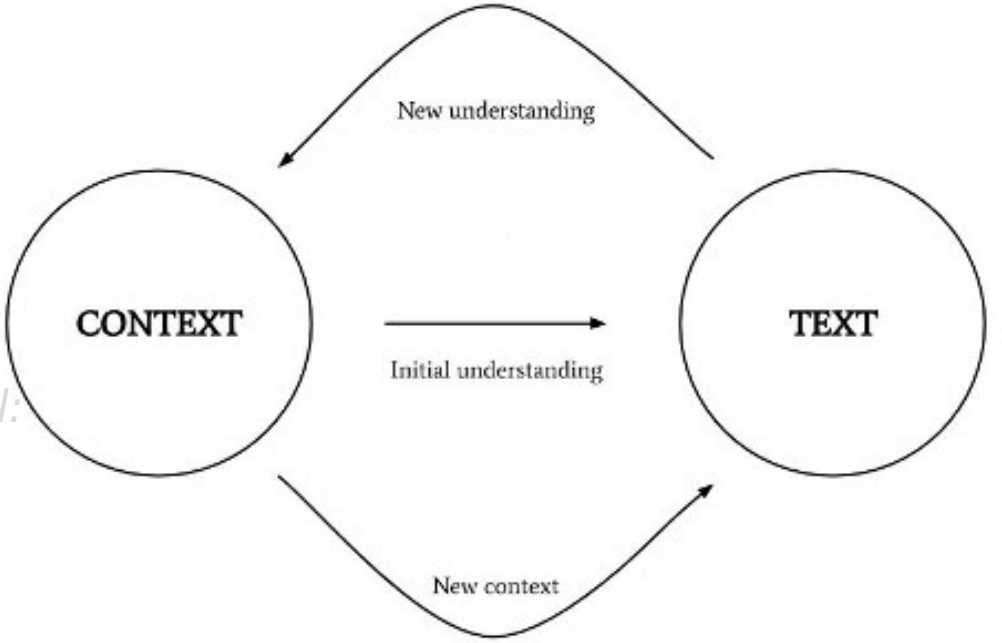
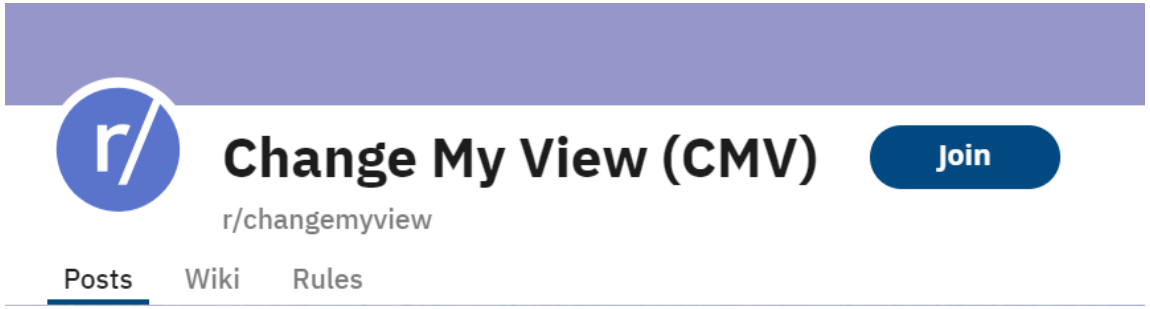
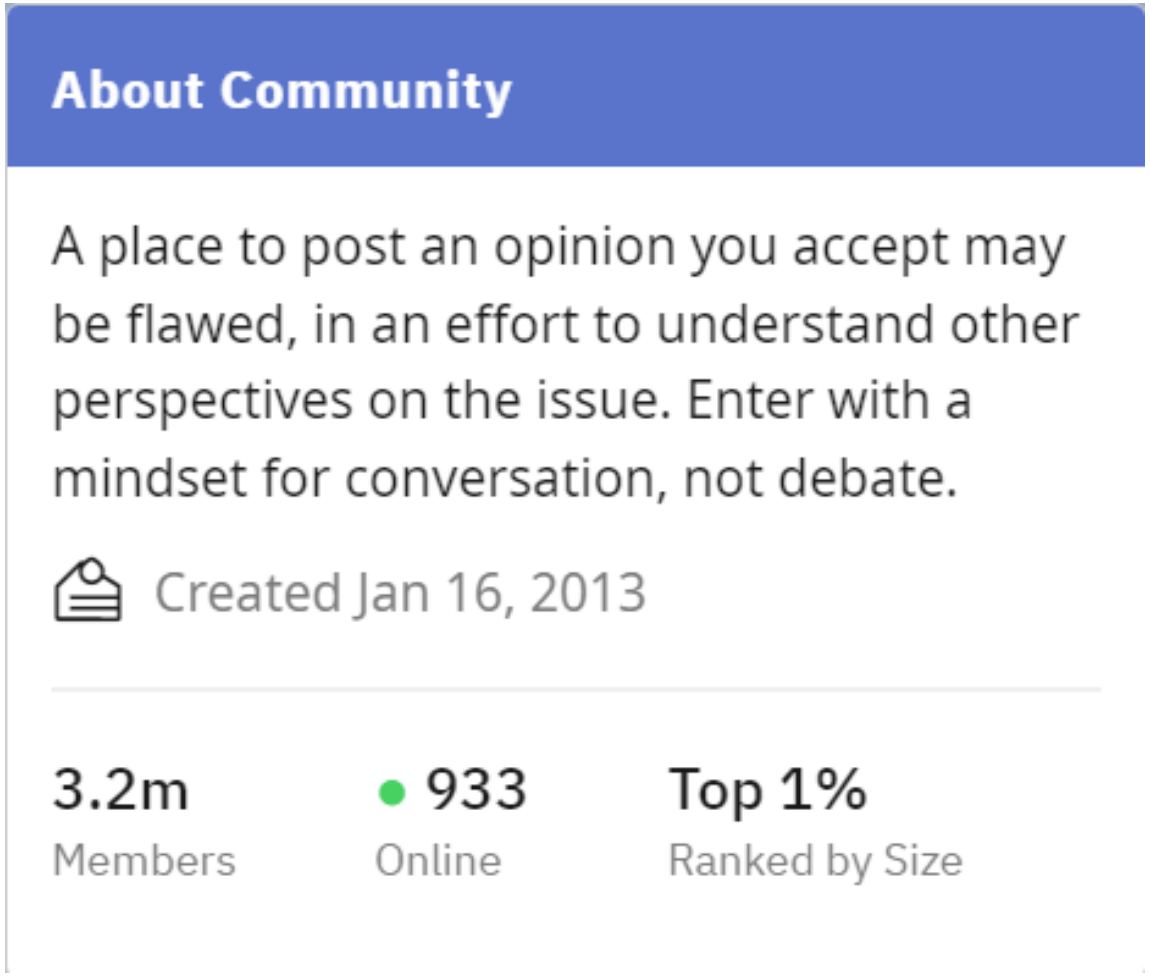


What is /r/changemyview?

CMV is a subreddit dedicated to civil discourse, and is built around the idea that in order to resolve our differences, we must first understand them. We believe that productive conversation requires respect and openness, and that certitude is the enemy of understanding.

That's why CMV is the perfect place to post an opinion you're open to changing. We're not looking to host aggressive debates, or encourage judgement, but help each other understand different perspectives.





Platform hermeneutics: Reddit

Am I the Asshole? Join

r/AmItheAsshole

Posts | Assk the Mods | Frequently Assed Q's | Asshole Archives | Resources

Hot | New | Top | ...

566

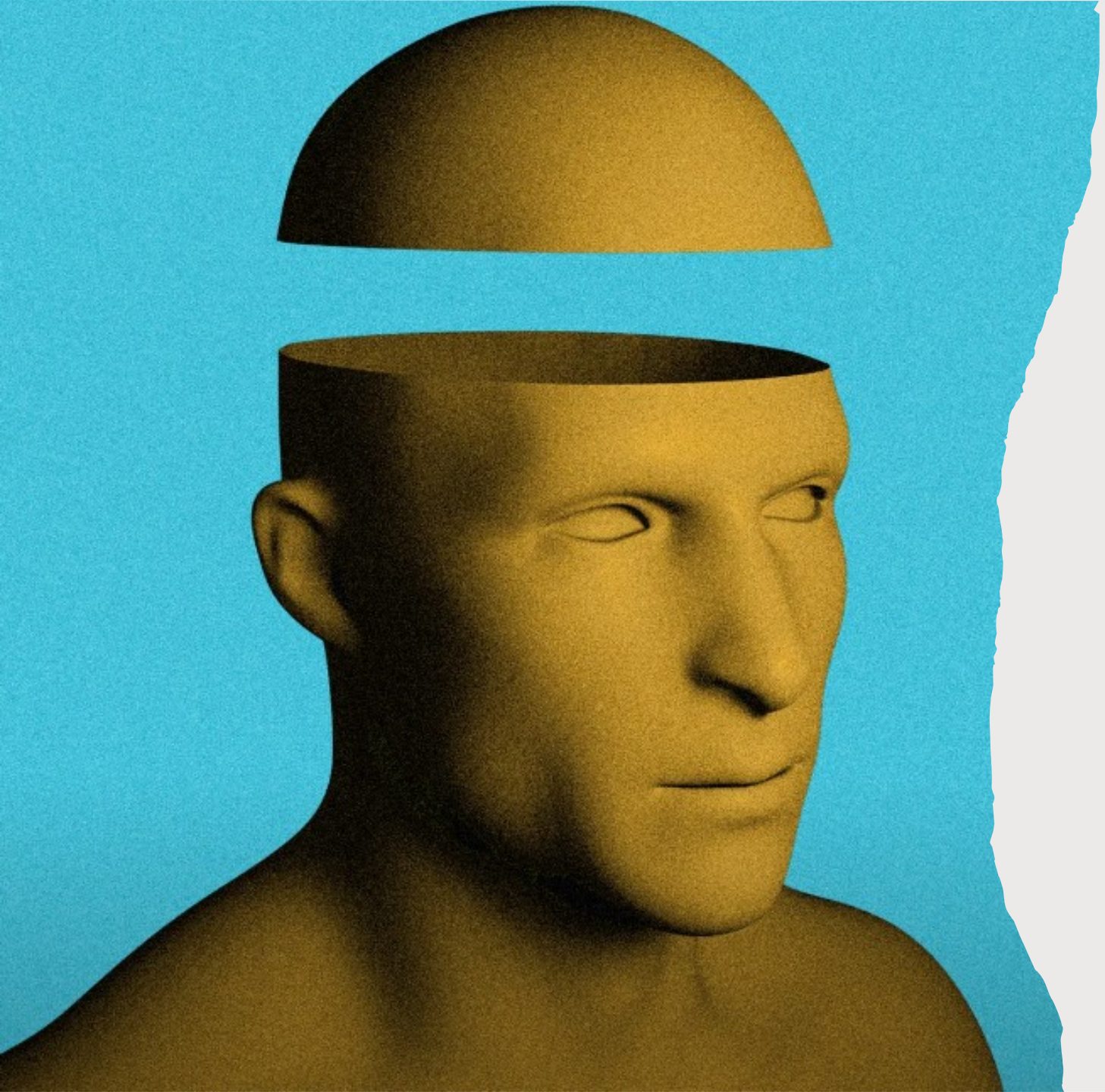
PINNED BY MODERATORS

Posted by u/AITAMod I am a shared account. 28 days ago

Open Forum **AITA Monthly Open Forum May 2023: Rule 2 - Voting Rules**

About Community

A catharsis for the frustrated moral philosopher in all of us, and a place to finally find out if you were wrong in an argument that's been bothering you. Tell us about any non-violent conflict you have experienced; give us both sides of the



Platform Hermeneutics: CMV Rules

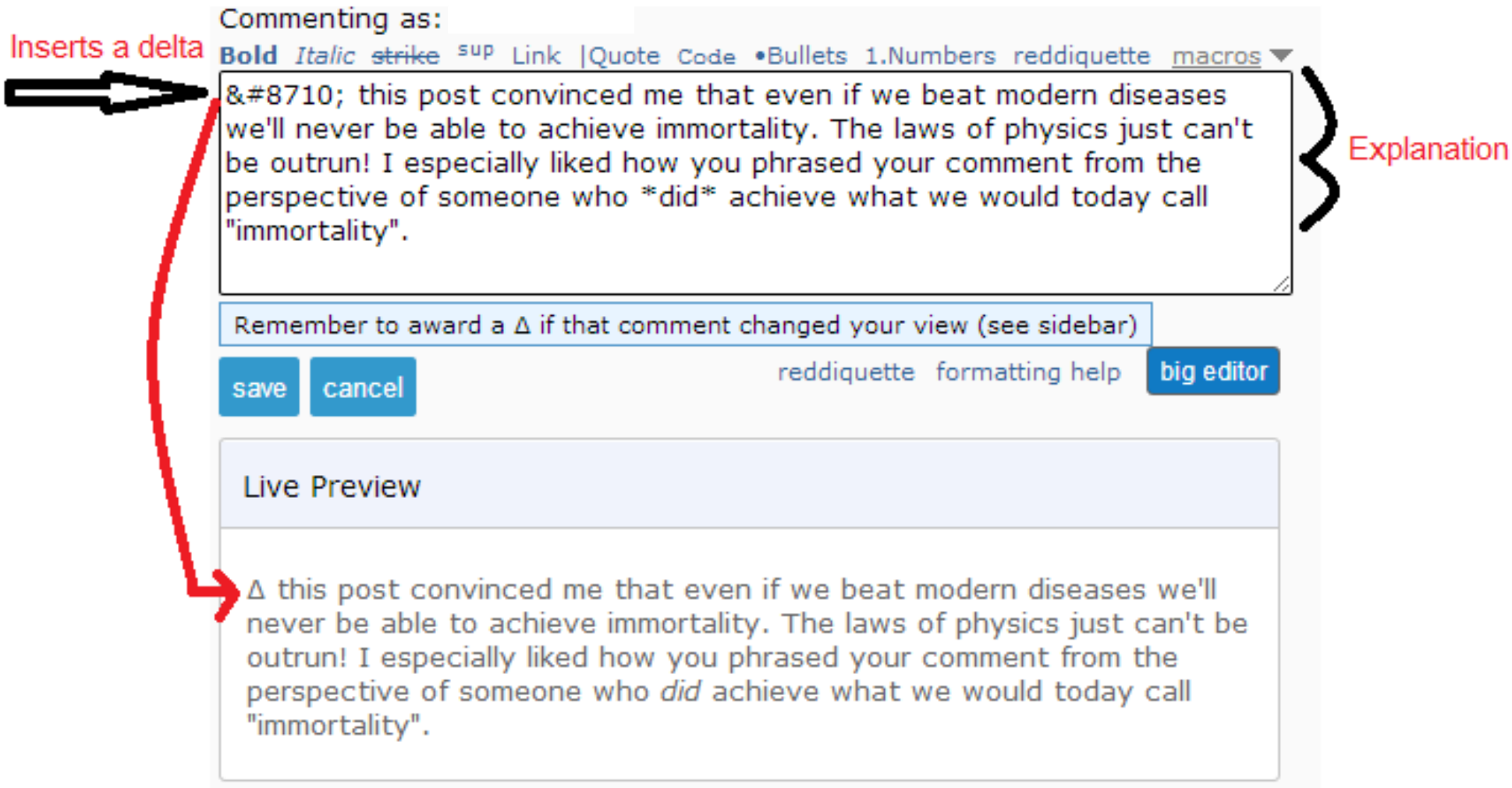
A. Explain the **reasoning behind** your view, not just what that view is (**500+ characters** required)

B. You must **personally hold** the view and demonstrate that you are open to it changing.

D. Only post if you are willing to have a conversation with those who reply to you, and are **available** to do so within **3 hours after posting**

[Comments:]

2. Don't be **rude or hostile** to other users


Inserts a delta
Commenting as:
Bold Italic strike sup Link |Quote Code •Bullets 1.Numbers reddiquette macros
∆ this post convinced me that even if we beat modern diseases we'll never be able to achieve immortality. The laws of physics just can't be outrun! I especially liked how you phrased your comment from the perspective of someone who *did* achieve what we would today call "immortality".
Explanation
Remember to award a Δ if that comment changed your view (see sidebar)
save
cancel
reddiquette formatting help
big editor
Live Preview
Δ this post convinced me that even if we beat modern diseases we'll never be able to achieve immortality. The laws of physics just can't be outrun! I especially liked how you phrased your comment from the perspective of someone who did achieve what we would today call "immortality".

Posted by u/ 17 hours ago

430

Delta(s) from OP - Fresh Topic Friday CMV: I could beat a Cheetah in a fight to the death

Posted by u/ 7 hours ago

14

Delta(s) from OP - Fresh Topic Friday CMV: Releasing a book exclusively on Audible is ableist.

Posted by u/ 14 hours ago

9

Fresh Topic Friday CMV: Eating at a restaurant has lost it's appeal.

Posted by u/ 17 hours ago

1

Delta(s) from OP - Fresh Topic Friday CMV: We should change the way we think of "subjectivity" and "objectivity".

Posted by u/ 13 hours ago

0

Fresh Topic Friday CMV: Mortal Kombat's Fatalities Ruin the Narrative

In the video game franchise, Mortal Kombat, every mainline game has finishing

Distant reading (topic modeling)

	Hit	Right Context
n tipping is problematic. I	believe	that the fact that the companies aren't footing
tions." So then, you must	believe	that the fact that [therapy demonstrably reduces s
ve in evolution, and I also	believe	that the question of ""Is something human or will
en that with that in mind, I	believe	that the question as to whether there is free
dered a crime. I personally	believe	that the a legal system ought to have three
aviors to be transmitted. I	believe	that the advent of birth control changed dating. W
dvocate for change, I just	believe	that the approach of abolishing the police is a
xplanations. In summary, I	believe	that the argument for materialism is supported by
as trying to make. 4. I still	believe	that the average American lifestyle results in more
tentions are worn down. I	believe	that the best way forward is to redefine a
heir proof (being that they	believe	that the book is proof). Because you need proof,
source?" 100%. Socialists	believe	that the bourgeois didn't earn their wealth. They
don't have any reason to	believe	that the chalk will or will not break unless
ded to with things like, ""I	believe	that the clump of cells growing in a woman

Context Size 10 token(s)

Hyper-reading (concordances): “believe”

Hyper-reading (concordances): “wrong”

KWIC | Plot | File View | Cluster | N-Gram

Total Hits: 1875 **Page Size** 100 hits 1 to 100 of 1870 hits

	File	Left Context	Hit	Right Context
20	cmv post...	of which is my wife). There isn't anything inherently	wrong	with having a one night stand, but I don'
21	cmv post...	What's a body count in this context? Theres nothing	wrong	with having a preference, so long as you still
22	cmv post...	that same standard, then be quiet. Why? there's nothing	wrong	with having a dating standard for others and not
23	cmv post...	reaching western countries in due time." cmv there is nothing	wrong	with having a racial identity [removed] cmv Forcing binary
24	cmv post...	and is based on white supremacist ideals. [deleted cmv Nothing	wrong	with having a huge age gap with your partner [
25	cmv post...	She’s spitting facts!” In my opinion, there’s nothing	wrong	with having any preferences as long as they’re
26	cmv post...	use the term ‘body count’ are awful. There's nothing	wrong	with having any preference. Weight, race, height, religion, sexual
27	cmv post...	Nothing stopping you enjoying/using rainbows. cmv There is nothing	wrong	with having body count preferences How is it that
28	cmv post...	britain in the 70's to now). Objectively there's nothing	wrong	with having less culture, I just think that it
29	cmv post...	beneficial for both parties involved." There is nothing, in theory,	wrong	with having preferences. The real question is why these '
30	cmv post...	USA is USA. That's circular definition. There is nothing	wrong	with having these kind of definitions. Woman is any
31	cmv post...	as their own - then yes, there would not be anything	wrong	with it. But that is just not how it
32	cmv post...	most of my life. Its a logical choice and nothing	wrong	with it. cmv [removed] cmv Homeschooling should be restricted [
33	cmv post...	a large portion of our society believe there's nothing	wrong	with it. Do you think that means they don'

305	doc#0	on n-count, while it can provide details for context.</s><s>So it's	wrong	to just say ""<5"" because you're not consid
306	doc#0	ug addicts to get more drugs?</s><s>NEVER This is just flat-out	wrong	.</s><s>Services exist to help people get th
307	doc#0	se responsible for a choice they had nothing to do with" ,And it's	wrong	. ,"This is a bad take.</s><s>I'd wager pros
308	doc#0	produce much wealth once it has been consumed. > This is just	wrong	.</s><s>You know what kept the economy f
309	doc#0	people in the US for higher paid positions.</s><s>Don't get me	wrong	, I don't believe we're in the best spot, but "c
310	doc#0	nents would be indicative that you know your position is factually	wrong	but still continue to argue on points that hav
311	doc#0	heir bodies, so this isn't a case where they have a beliefe that is	wrong	about their bodies.</s><s>Trans men aren't
312	doc#0	a as your brain getting burnout because it constantly recives the	wrong	signals from your body and not what it is ex
313	doc#0	nder the 14th Amendment equal protection clause, and she was	wrong	because Alito dismisses that argument in a
314	doc#0	argue** that they don't think they could prove they did something	wrong	I don't know what you're trying to say here a
315	doc#0	just have bad ideas, that still leaves those who know right from	wrong	, but choose wrong" ,It's actually kind of a m
316	doc#0	as, that still leaves those who know right from wrong, but choose	wrong	" ,It's actually kind of a meta-post.</s><s>O
317	doc#0	nore likely to solve the problem."</s><s>,"Who decides what the	wrong	things are?</s><s>Remember, we are talki
318	doc#0	ts are saying roughly the same thing, then yes, you do have it all	wrong	.</s><s>Conservatives are not opposed to
319	doc#0	srespectful or dismissive.</s><s>Could you tell me where I went	wrong	here so I could at least try to improve if I'm
320	doc#0	ou're saying I need to give up my desire for children because it's	wrong	of me to leave a partner who wants differen

	Details	Left context	KWIC	Right context ↑
601	doc#0	</s><s>So you're actually the mainstream one being anti-woke:	believing	that traditional values will solve modern pro
602	doc#0	if we send troops in to quickly defeat them here."</s><s>,">that	believes	that even God seems to love celebrities mo
603	doc#0	ı's rooms.</s><s>I'm not expressing an opinion either way, but I	believe	that's what the OP meant was sexist" ,"In th
604	doc#0	ardization across these ostensibly developmental jobs.</s><s>I	believe	that the path to better policing lies in the St
605	doc#0	to knock down walls, go in the fire, save that person.""</s><s>I	believe	that both positions of firefighter and police a
606	doc#0	ɔnsider a multifactorial approach to transitioning."</s><s>,I don't	believe	that trans people are lying. ,Do what I want
607	doc#0	moral difference here that cannot be reconciled.</s><s>I do not	believe	that humans are static, we are dynamic and
608	doc#0	a choice someone made at 17 against them because you don't	believe	that humans can change.</s><s>And mayb
609	doc#0	ɔu are going to get blowback.</s><s>Your phrasing leads me to	believe	that you aren't actually drawing that distinct
610	doc#0	ı pay an unexpected $1,000 bill in cash"" is misleading.</s><s>I	believe	that a lot of people, perhaps even most, wil
611	doc#0	all but the most intensive work now a days...</s><s>I think you	believe	that you are an empathetic person, but I thi
612	doc#0	ɔoint.</s><s>People argue for the restriction of rights when they	believe	that such restrictions are reasonable and in
613	doc#0	ɪ most cases are treatable or subside over time."</s><s>,I don't	believe	that children don't deserve the right to expr
614	doc#0	ıeir greed and make the sacrifices . . . So, let's assume that you	believe	that the GOP focus on non-sustainable ene
615	doc#0	ɾranian lives, which I disagree on a fundamental level, but if you	believe	that I don't think I'd be able to change your
616	doc#0	personal stories, they use the image of someone else.</s><s>I	believe	that we should have a right to our own imag

Meta: Using ChatGPT on CMV

With ChatGPT making waves recently, we've seen a number of OPs using ChatGPT to create CMV posts. While we think that ChatGPT is a very interesting tool, using ChatGPT to make a CMV is pretty counter to the spirit of the sub; you are supposed to post what **you** believe in your own words.

To that end, we are making a small adjustment to Rule A to make it clear that any text from an AI is treated the same way as other quoted text:

- The use of AI text generators (including, but not limited to ChatGPT) to create any portion of a post/comment must be disclosed, and does not count towards the character limit for Rule A.

First, using AI-generated text can provide a starting point for discussion on a topic that might not have been considered before. AI can suggest new perspectives or arguments that may challenge our existing beliefs and encourage us to think more deeply about a particular issue.

Additionally, AI can help identify and address common fallacies or biases in arguments. By analyzing the language used in posts and comments, AI can identify patterns of reasoning or language that may be misleading or illogical. This can lead to more productive discussions where arguments are based on sound reasoning rather than flawed logic.

-this reply was written by ChatGPT

• 3 mo. ago

At first I was on the side of not seeing the problem with it, but now faced with an example I see the problem. When writing a reply, I have to consider whether you actually believe and can defend what you wrote. If I ask for clarification or more precision on something, such as

• 3 mo. ago

I don't even understand the point of using chat gpt here.

I consider this a place as some form of mental gym to explore and challenge my own beliefs as much as other peoples

116 Reply Share ...

• 3 mo. ago

Seems like there is a fair amount of people who are just here to win and farm karma. I've seen a lot of convincing arguments that are waved away by dubious responses that stray away from the spirit of the post. Plus I'm sure some people are trolling. Personally I stopped participating (although still subbed) due to

Trust & Distrust in Online Culture

[W]hy do people from different worldviews interpret the same piece of content differently? Rather than thinking about the intention behind the production, let's analyze the contradictions in the interpretation. This requires developing a strong sense of how others think and where the differences in perspective lie. ... a cultural change about how we make sense of information, whom we trust, and how we understand our own role in grappling with information.

--danah boyd

Conclusion

- CMV: anti-echo chamber?
- Strong emphasis on deliberation, more than dialogue
- Actively shaped by platform affordances and governance
- Platforms: more than ‘backdrops’ for discussion
- Situate platform infrastructure in process dialogue, incl. algorithms and moderation