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On the educational value of arguing in indirectly informative language

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Maged El Komos (Academic Skills Centre and Cultural Studies, *Trent University*)

"On the educational value of arguing in indirectly informative language"

Writing arguments in indirectly informative language can improve undergraduates' analytic and communicative competencies. A twofold support is offered. First, written examples are examined to show how producing such argument can develop one's practic al understanding of the cultural repertoire--a knowledge argued crucial to both the evaluative and the communicative uses of reasoning. Second, various articulations of the relation between practical understanding and communication are discussed: those of Gadamer on the connection between hermeneutics and rhetoric; Ricouer on the continuity of the imagination, cognition, and feeling in metaphor; and work in cognitive psychology on the links among language, thought and culture.