

The Rules of Co-operative Conversation
(from H. P. Grice, "The Logic of Conversation", 1975)

Maxims of **Quantity**

1. Make your contribution as informative as is required.
2. Do not make your contribution more informative than is required.

Maxims of **Quality**

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

Maxims of **Manner**

1. Avoid obscurity of expression.
2. Avoid ambiguity.
3. Be brief.
4. Be orderly.

Maxim of **Relation**

1. Be relevant.

The Maxims sum up Grice's concept of the "Co-operative Principle" that, he says, underlies human discourse.

However, like many rules of human behavior, Grice's Maxims are idealized, and often violated in common practice.. Find violations of each maxim and characterize them in a short (2-pg **maximum**) essay.

Questions to consider include:

- Are some maxims harder to violate than others? Why?
- Are some (kinds of) violations more common than others? Why?
→ In writing, speech, or computer-mediated communication? Why?
- Is this a reasonable set of rules? What does it leave out?
I.e, these maxims assume that cooperation in exchanging information is the only result of, and main purpose for, conversation. Is this correct?