

### The Dark Wood

In this activity, I will reflect upon the content of “The Dark Wood” webpage (and its links) in three different contexts (italicized below).

*When I am writing*, I usually just write whatever comes to mind. I’ve never been concerned about my writing having consequences in the real world since nearly all the writing I’ve done is for school—which seems like writing-*for*-others. I keep a personal diary, so I do writing-*to*-self. Still, I’m not sure what it means to write-*to*-others or to have a desired outcome for my writing. It seems like writing-*to*-others is really persuasive writing. Insofar as that’s the case, I can see where having a desired outcome **might** be useful (to me) because it’s like having a plan. When I have a plan, I work the plan, and I use the plan to measure my success (or failure).

Like my instructor warned me, I am confused by all the links on the website. It’s like every link goes to someplace new, and I lose track of where I started. It’s frustrating, and I feel like I’m not making any progress at all. In that sense, I can see where I’m like Dante: my progress is pretty much halted.

*When I am interacting with classmates*, I guess I **might** be able to ask them what their desired outcome is for a certain piece of persuasive writing (writing-*to*-others). That way, I would understand what they are trying to accomplish with a specific text, so I could see if the text was doing what they wanted it to. Alternatively, my classmates could do the same for me. Also, if my classmates are as confused and frustrated as I am, I can empathize with their situation since it’s my situation, too. Alternatively, my classmates could do the same for me.

*When I am reading a text composed by a non-student writer*, I **might** try to infer what the writer’s desired outcome is. But, that only seems to work in the context of persuasive writing (writing-*to*-others) because I certainly don’t have a desired outcome when I’m writing in my diary (writing-*to*-self). Like I said, I usually just write whatever comes to mind.

Still, in the context of persuasive writing (writing-*to*-others), if I assume the writer of a text has a desired outcome, then I can be on my guard against being manipulated (by others). Advertisements have a desired outcome; the writer wants the reader to buy the product. Advertisements are manipulative, and it’s just stupid to do what every advertisement wants me to do.