Department of Language and Translation Studies, University of Surrey. Hilary Arnold and Simon Williams,
Arbitrating beliefs about learning to write in the PhD writing workshop.

Definitions

- *episteme* - a body of ideas which give shape to theoretical knowledge
- *techne* - what people can do, the rational method involved in accomplishing a goal or objective
- *phronesis* - the capability to consider the mode of action in order to deliver change, the ability to reflect upon; practical wisdom

(Eisner 2002)

Transcript illustrating the handling of disagreement among focus group participants

J   in the States, the PhD programme incorporates a battery of writing courses. They're compulsory, I believe.

PL   hm? It does?

J   yeah, they just retrain you with the skills you need. I don't know if that's good or bad in the context of the UK system.

PL   oh that's a cultural issue again. In Poland for instance I wouldn't be given such courses because it's assumed I know how to write, that I've already learned what I need and that the only thing that they can help me with is with specific issues, at least.

J   all right but on the issue of plagiarism that's not really a writing issue.

PL   well it is as well. It's a writing issue, wouldn't you say?   If you tend to copy certain things from without sometimes realizing it. It is a writing issue.

J   oh OK, if you say so. But those guidelines are universal.

PL   well true. But there are some differences I think with regards the way people approach this and sometimes I think England tends to be stricter about it.

J   but the same in the States.

PL   OK, let's leave the issue of plagiarism aside.

References

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