

Everyone,

I wanted to re-send a different version of Grice's Maxims along with some examples. I do so because I don't think we were efficient with our time in the last meeting, even though I think we have a group of intelligent people.

These maxims may be difficult to turn into a habit, but if you do, everyone will enjoy your participation.

Maxim of Quality

Be Truthful

- Stick with the basic facts.
- Do not say anything where you lack adequate evidence (or at least let people know it's your opinion).

Example:

Question: Should I buy my son this new sports car?

Good answer: I don't know if that's such a good idea. He's totaled two cars since he got his license last year.

vs.

Not so good answer: No, he seems like he is not a very good driver.

Maxim of Quantity

Quantity of Information

- Keep your information to a minimum, but make sure you have enough to make your point.

Example:

Question: Where is the post office?

Good answer: Down the road, about 50 feet past the second left.

vs.

B

Not so good answer: Not far.

Maxim of Relation

Relevance

- Be relevant.

Efficient meetings stick with the relevant topics that are spelled out in the agenda. From time-to-time there may be a need to get off topic, but this is to be determined by the Chairperson.

Example 1:

Question: How are you doing in school?

Good answer: Not too well, actually. I'm failing two of my classes.

vs.

Not so good answer: It's been fun! I really like my teachers.

Maxim of Manner

Be Clear

- Avoid obscurity of expression.
- Avoid ambiguity.
- Be brief.
- Be orderly.

Example:

Question: What did you think of that movie?

B: I liked the creative storyline, and the acting was great. The ending was really a surprise!

vs.

B: It was interestingly done.