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Abstract

Ulysses to Minerva:
Investigating whether written texts prepare us to read organizations?

This student's final report on the practicum investigates the question: *Whether my learning how to interpret written text has prepared me to read an organization.*

The approach taken by the paper is to identify the characteristics of written texts and those of organizations to determine if they can both be classified as text; the paper then assesses if what is learnt about the interpretation of written texts is transferable to the interpretation of organizations.

In looking at the question, *What is written text?*, the paper takes a two pronged approach that blends the theory of Ricoeur with the student's personal experience reading Ulysses. In looking at the question *What is an organization?* the paper draws on Nonaka's knowledge-creation theory and on personal experience working with the WSIB.

The conclusion reached is that the textuality of organizations is in some ways similar to written texts but in other ways is radically different, necessitating that the reading of an organizations be approached in ways distinct and different from the reading of written texts.