COM 803-22

Hermeneutics and Communications

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Professor

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**Assignment #1 – Core Essential Elements**

1. Write a three-paragraph essay responding to the following question:

When have you noticed your pre-judgments influencing your interpretations? How have  
you experienced a "fusion of horizons" in your learning experiences?

Lawn (2006) describes Gadamer’s Fusion of Horizons as “the dynamic and transformative process that occurs during interpretation” (Hermeneutics and Gadamer Presentation 2, p. 4). I have engaged in so-called *conversations* with various written works over the years, but my greatest personal challenge has been, and continues to be, the interpretation of legal statutes.

I reside in California––a state that churns out copious amounts of legislation each year. In an attempt to be an informed resident, I visit the State of California’s legislative website at least twice each year. Each time I visit, I struggle to grasp: 1. the true purpose of the annual onslaught of new state laws, and 2. the word density and lengthy sentences within the laws

I carry prejudice against California’s “nanny state” attitude including what I feel are often petty laws, as well as they verbose way in which they are written. Despite my prejudices, it is ultimately to my benefit to interpret and understand new legislation. I’m not going to change the laws; therefore I elect to read and re-read them over and over until I understand them. With this understanding I am able to align a “fusion of horizons.”

WORK CITED

Lawn, C. (2006). Gadamer: A Guide for the Perplexed. Continuum.

REFERENCE

Schmidt, Ken (2023). “Hermeneutics and Gadamer Presentation 2”. PowerPoint presentation. Omega Graduate School. COM 803 Course Resources.