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**News and Update**

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## ***Re-order paragraph***

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# News and Update

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## Behavioural science

- In 'Easier Said than Done', we set out some of the reasons why we might find it hard to live in a healthy way, exercising, eating well, getting adequate sleep, and checking for early warning symptoms.
- Perhaps most importantly, we look to the field of behavioral science for strategies that people can use to overcome those hurdles (障碍) and to initiate lifestyle changes.
- These include Commitment devices, where we make it very unattractive to not follow through on an intention.
- Changing existing behaviour can be a difficult task, but with the help of these strategies new behaviours can become habitual, facilitating a long – term sustained healthy lifestyle.

## 21st Science and technology

- It is a truism to say that in 21st century society science and technology are important.
- Human existence in the developed world is entirely dependent on some fairly recent developments in science and technology.
- Whether this is good or bad is, of course, up for an argument.
- But the fact that science underlies our lives, our health, our work, our communications, our entertainment and our transport is undeniable.

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## Human worship gods

- My study of the history of religion has revealed that human beings are spiritual animals. Indeed, there is a case for arguing that Homo sapiens is also Homo religious.
- Men and women started to worship gods as soon as they became recognizably human they created religions at the same time as they created works of art.
- This was not simply because they wanted to propitiate powerful forces.
- These early faiths expressed the wonder and mystery that seems always to have been an essential component of the human experience of this beautiful world.

## Engineered for green technologies

- Engineers are much needed to develop greener technologies.
- The energy sector has a fantastic skills shortage at all levels, both now and looming over it for the next 10 years.
- Not only are there some good career opportunities, but there's a lot of money going into the research side, too.
- With the pressures of climate change and the energy gap, in the last few years funding from the research councils has probably doubled.

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## Map

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- For as long as I can remember, there has been a map in the ticket hall of Piccadilly Circus tube station supposedly showing night and day across the time zones of the world.
- This is somewhat surprising given the London Underground's historic difficulty in grasping the concept of punctuality.
- But this map has always fascinated me, and still does, even though it now seems very primitive.
- This is because it chops the world up equally by longitude, without regard the reality of either political divisions or the changing seasons.

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# Bankruptcy

- In Montana as elsewhere, companies that have acquired older mines respond to demands to pay for cleanup in either of two ways.
- Especially if the company is small, its owners may declare the company bankrupt, in some cases conceal its assets, and transfer their business efforts to other companies or to new companies that do not bear responsibility for cleanup at the older mine.
- If the company is so large that it cannot claim that it would be bankrupted by cleanup costs, the company instead denies its responsibility or else seeks to minimize the costs.
- In either case, either the mine site and areas downstream of it remain toxic, thereby endangering people, or else the U.S. federal government and the Montana state government pay for the cleanup through the federal Superfund and a corresponding Montana state fund.

# FIB

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## Seatbelt

I, for example, am a cyclist and a motorist. I fasten my seatbelt when I drive and wear a helmet on my bike to reduce the risk of injury. I am convinced that these are prudent safety measures. I have persuaded many friends to wear helmets on the grounds that transplant surgeons call those without helmets, "donors on wheels." But a book on 'Risk' by my colleague John Adams has made me re-examine my convictions.

Adams has completely undermined my confidence in these apparently sensible precautions. What he has persuasively argued, particularly in relation to seat belts, is that the evidence that they do what they are supposed to do is very suspect. This is in spite of numerous claims that seat belts save many thousands of lives every year.

Between 1970 and 1978 countries in which the wearing of seat belts is compulsory had on average about five percent road accident death than before the introduction of the United Kingdom road deaths decreased steadily about seven thousand a year. In 1972 to Just over our in 1989. There is no evidence in the trend for any effect of the seat belt law that was introduced in 1983. There is actually evidence that the number of cyclists and pedestals killed increased by about ten percent. That twice as many

children were killed in road accidents in 1922 as now must not be taken as evidence that there is less risk when children play in the street today. It almost certainly reflects the care taken by parents in keeping children off the streets.

How are these figures which are both puzzling and shoeing to be explained? This answer seems to lie in our perception of risk and how we modified our behaviour. An important concept that has been developed to account for peoples' handling. Of risk is the Thermostat Mode. An individual's propensity to take risks is influenced by their own experience, and that of others and this model assumes that the degree to which we lake risks varies from one individual to another. The key feature the risk-taking is the balancing of perceptions of the risk and the possible rewards, and this balance may be the rejection of an individual is a particular type of personality. In general, the more risks an individual takes, the greater will be both the positive and negative rewards.

**Pinker**

# News and Update

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In a sequence of bestsellers, including The Language Instinct and How the Mind Works, Pinker has argued the swathes of our mental, social and emotional lives may have **originated** as evolutionary

adaptions, well suited to the lives our ancestors eked out on the Pleistocene savannah. Sometimes it seems as if nothing is **immune** from being explained this way. Road rage, adultery, marriage, altruism, our tendency to reward senior executives with corner offices on the top floor, and the smaller number of women who become mechanical engineers all may have their **roots** in natural selection, Pinker claims. The controversial implications are obvious: that men and women might **differ** in their inborn abilities at performing certain tasks, for example, or that parenting may have **little** influence on personality.

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# Impressionism

Impressionism was a nineteenth-century art movement that began as a loose association of Paris-based artists who started publicly exhibiting their art in the 1860s. Characteristics of Impressionist painting include visible brush strokes, light colors, open composition, **emphasis** on light in its changing qualities (often accentuating the effects of the passage of time), ordinary subject matter, and unusual visual angles. The name of the movement is **derived** from Claude Monet's Impression, Sunrise (Impression, Soleil Levant). Critic Louis Leroy **inadvertently** coined the term in a satiric review published in Le Charivari. Radicals in their time, early Impressionists broke the rules of **academic** painting. They began by giving colors, freely brushed, primacy over line, drawing **inspiration** from the work of painters such as Eugene Delacroix. They also took the act of painting out of the studio and into the world. Previously, not only still-lives and portraits, but also landscapes had been painted indoors, but the Impressionists found that they could **capture** the momentary and transient effects of sunlight by painting air (in plain air).

## Foreign Policy

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The foreign policy of a state, it is often argued, begins and ends with the border. No doubt an exaggeration, this aphorism nevertheless has an **ELEMENT** of truth. A state's relation with its neighbors, at least in the **FORMATIVE** years, are greatly **INFLUENCED** by its frontier policy, especially when there are no **SETTLED** borders. Empire builders in the past sought to extend imperial frontiers for a variety of reasons; subjugation of kings and princes to gain their allegiance (as well as handsome tributes for the coffers of the state), and, security of the 'core' of the empire from external attacks by establishing a string of buffer states in areas **ADJOINING** the frontiers. The history of British empire in India was no different. It is important to note in this connection that the concept of international boundaries (between two sovereign states), demarcated and delineated, was yet to emerge in India under Mughal rule.

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## Live away from home

For many first-year students, the University may be their first experience living away from home for an extended period of time. It is a definite break from home. In my point of view this is the best thing that you can do. I know you have to fend for yourself, cook and clean after yourself, basically look after yourself without your parents but the truth is – some time in your life you are going to have to part with lovely Mummy and Daddy. But they are only just a phone call away and it is really good to have some quality time without them. The first few weeks can be a lonely period. There may be concerns about forming friendship. When new students look around, it may seem that everyone else is self-confident and socially successful! The reality is that everyone is having the same concerns.

Increased personal freedom can feel both wonderful and frightening. Students can come and go as they choose with no one to “hassle” them. The strange environment with new kinds of procedures and new people can create the sense of being on an emotional roller coaster. This is normal and to be expected. You meet so many more people in the halls than if you stayed at home. The main points about living away from home are: no parents! You don't have to tell them where you're going, who you're going with, what time you'll be coming, why you're going etc. etc. You learn various social skills; you have to get along with your roommates. Living with them can present special, sometimes intense, problems. Negotiating respect of personal property, personal space, sleep, and relaxation needs, can be a complex task. The complexity increases when roommates are of different backgrounds with very different values. It is unrealistic to expect that roommates will be best friends. Meaningful, new relationships should not be expected to develop overnight. It took a great deal of time to develop intimacy in high school friendships; the same will be true of intimacy in university friendships. You have a phone! So if you ever get homesick or miss your Mummy then she's always at the end of a phone-line for you – and so are your friends.

## SpaceX Dragon Capsule

The rocket lofted an uncrewed **mockup** of SpaceX's Dragon Capsule, which is designed to one day carry both crew and cargo to orbit. "This has been a good day for SpaceX and a **promising** development for the US human space flight programme," said Robyn Ringuette of SpaceX in a webcast of the launch.

In a teleconference with the media on Thursday, SpaceX's CEO, Paypal co-founder Elon Musk, said he would consider the flight 100 per cent successful if it reached **orbit**. "Even if you prove out just that the first stage functions correctly, I'd still say that's a good day for a test," he said. "It's a great day if both stages work correctly."

SpaceX hopes to win a NASA **contract** to launch astronauts to the International Space Station using the Falcon 9. US government space shuttles, which currently make these trips, are scheduled to **retire** for safety reasons at the end of 2010.

## Teenage daughter

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Your **TEENAGE** daughter gets top marks in school, captains the debate team, and volunteers at a shelter for homeless people. But while driving the family car, her text-messages her best friend and rear-ends another vehicle.

How can teens be so clever, accomplished, and responsible – and reckless **AT THE SAME TIME?** Easily, according to two physicians at Children’s Hospital Boston and Harvard Medical School (HMS) who have been exploring the unique structure and chemistry of the adolescent brain. “The teenage brain is not just an adult brain with fewer miles on it,” says Frances E. Jensen, a professor of neurology. “It’s a paradoxical time of **DEVELOPMENT.** These are people with very sharp brains, but they’re not quite sure what to do with them.”

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## Cognitive psychologist

Steven Pinker, a cognitive psychologist best known for his book “The Language Instinct”, has called music “auditory cheesecake, an exquisite confection crafted to tickle the sensitive spots of at least six of our mental faculties.” If it **VANISHED** from our species, he said, “The rest of our lifestyle would be **VIRTUALLY** unchanged.” Others have argued that, on the **CONTRARY**, music, along with art and literature, is part of what makes people human; its absence would have a brutalizing effect. Philip Ball, a British science writer and an avid music enthusiast, comes down somewhere in the middle. He says that music is ingrained in our auditory, cognitive and motor functions. We have a music **INSTINCT** as much as a language **INSTINCT**, and could not rid ourselves of it if we tried.

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## A new video-conferencing technology

Never has the carbon footprint of multi-national corporations been under such intense scrutiny. Inter-city train journeys and long-haul flights to **CONDUCT** face-to-face business meetings contribute significantly to greenhouse gases and the resulting **STRAIN** on the environment.

The Anglo-US company Teliris has introduced a new video - **CONFERENCING** technology and partnered with the Carbon Neutral Company, enabling corporate outfits to become more environmentally responsible. The innovation allows **SIMULATED** face-to-face meetings to be held across continents without the time **PRESSURE** or environmental burden of international travel.

Previous designs have enabled video - **CONFERENCING** on a point-to-point, dual-location basis. The firm's VirtuaLive technology, however, can bring people together from up to five separate locations anywhere in the world - with **UNRIVALLED** transmission quality.

## Intelligence of animals of different species

Comparing the intelligence of animals of different species is difficult, how do you compare a dolphin and a horse? Psychologists have a technique for looking at intelligence that **DOES** not require the cooperation of the animal involved. The relative size of an individual's brain is a reasonable indication of intelligence. Comparing across species is not as simple an elephant will have a larger brain than a human simple because it is a large beast. **INSTEAD** we use the Cephalization Index, which compare the size of an animal's brain to the size of its body.

Based on the Cephalization Index, the brightest animals on the planet are humans, **FOLLOWED** by great apes, porpoises and elephants. As a general rule animals that hunt for a living (like canines) are smarter than strict vegetarians (you don't need much intelligence to outsmart a leaf of lettuce). Animals that live in a social groups are always smarter and have large EQ's than solitary animals.

## Jupiter Icy Moons

Scientists preparing for NASA's proposed **JUPITER** Icy Moons Orbiter believe that Jupiter's moons Europa may be corrosive mixture of acid and peroxide. Thus it may not be the **IDEAL** place for life to exist as was thought possibly to be the case. **VIRTUALLY** all the information we have about Europa comes from the spacecraft Galileo, which completed its mission to study Jupiter and its moons close up before NASA dramatically crashed it into Jupiter in 2003. **ALTHOUGH** the general perception of Europa is of a frozen crust of water ice harboring a salty subterranean ocean kilometers below, researchers studying the most recent measurements say light reflected from the moon's icy surface bears the spectral fingerprints of hydrogen peroxide and strong acids. **HOWEVER** they accept that it could just be a thin surface dusting and might not come from the ocean below.

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## Kashmir Houseboat

Two decades ago, **KASHMIRI** houseboat-owners rubbed their hands every spring at the **PROSPECT** of the annual influx of **TOURISTS**. From May to October, the hyacinth-choked **WATERS** of Dal Lake saw flotillas of vividly painted shikaras carrying Indian families. Carpet-sellers **HONED** their skills, as did purveyors of anything remotely embroidered while the houseboats initiated by the British Raj provided unusual accommodation. The economy boomed. Then, in 1989, separatist and Islamist militancy struck and everything changed. Hindus and countless **KASHMIRI** business people bolted, at least 35,000 people were killed in a decade, the lake stagnated and the houseboats rotted. Any foreigners venturing there risked their **LIVES** - proved in 1995 when five young Europeans were kidnapped and murdered.

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## Sex-biased Hiring

Discrimination against women has been alleged in hiring practices for many occupations, but it is extremely difficult to demonstrate sex-biased hiring. A change in the way symphony **ORCHESTRAS** recruit musicians provides an unusual way to test for sex-biased hiring. To overcome possible biases **IN** hiring, most **ORCHESTRAS** revised their audition policies in the 1970s and 1980s. A major change involved the use of blind' auditions with a screen' to **CONCEAL** the identity of the candidate from the jury. Female musicians in the top five symphony **ORCHESTRAS** in the United States were less than 5% of all players in 1970 but are 25% today. We ask whether women **WERE** more **LIKELY** to be **ADVANCED** and/or hired with the use of blind' auditions. Using data **from** **ACTUAL** auditions in an individual fixed-effects framework, we find that the screen increases by 50% the probability a woman **WILL** be **ADVANCED** out of certain preliminary rounds. The screen also enhances, **BY** severalfold, the likelihood a female contestant will be the winner in the final round. Using data on **ORCHESTRA** personnel, the switch to blind' auditions can explain between 30% and 55% of the increase in the proportion female among new hires and between 25% and 46% of the increase in the percentage female in the **ORCHESTRAS** since 1970.

## Kimbell

The first section of the book covers new modes of assessment. In Chapter 1, **KIMBELL** (Goldsmith College, London) responds to **CRITICISMS** of design programs as formalistic and conventional, stating that a focus on risk-taking than hard work in design innovation is equally problematic. His research contains three parts that include preliminary exploration of design innovation qualities, investigation of resulting classroom practices, and development of the evidence-based assessment. The assessment he describes is presented in the form of a structured worksheet, which includes a collaborative **ELEMENT** and digital photographs, in story format. Such a device encourages stimulating ideas but does not recognize students as design **INNOVATORS**. The assessment sheet includes holistic impressions as well as details about "having, growing, and proving" ideas. **COLLOQUIAL** judgments are evident in terms such as "wow" and "yawn" and reward the quality and quantity of ideas with the term, "sparkiness," which fittingly is a pun as the model project was to design light bulb packaging. In addition, the assessment focuses on the process of optimizing or complexity control as well as proving ideas with thoughtful criticism and not just generation of novel ideas. The definitions for qualities such as "technical" and "aesthetic" pertaining to users are too narrow and ill-defined. The author provides **EXAMPLES** of the project, its features and structures, students' notes and judgments, and their sketches and photographs of finished light bulb packages, in the Appendix.

## Primitive man

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It is commonly said by anthropologists that the primitive man is less individual than civilized man. This contains an element of truth. Simpler societies are more uniform, in the sense that they call for, and provide opportunities for, a far **smaller** diversity of individual skills and occupations than the more complex and **advanced** societies, and as a result those who live in those societies are **less** individual. In this sense, individualism is a necessary product of modern advanced society, and runs through all its activities.

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# Australian higher education

Financing of Australian higher education has undergone dramatic change since the early 1970s. Although the Australian Government provided regular funding for universities from the late 1950s, in 1974, it assumed full responsibility for funding higher education - abolishing tuition fees with the intention of making university accessible to all Australians who had the ability and who wished to participate in higher education.

Since the late 1980s, there has been a move towards greater private contributions, particularly students' fees. In 1989, the Australian Government introduced the Higher Education Contribution Scheme (HECS) which included a loans scheme to help students finance their contributions. This enabled universities to remain accessible to students by delaying their payments until they could afford to pay off their loans. In 2002, the Australian Government introduced a scheme similar to HECS for postgraduate students - the Postgraduate Education Loan Scheme (PELS).

Funding for higher education comes from various sources. This article examines the three main sources - Australian Government funding, students' fees and charges, and HECS. While the proportion of total revenue raised through HECS is relatively small, HECS payments are a significant component of students' university costs, with many students carrying a HECS debt for several years after leaving university. This article also focuses on characteristics of university students based on their HECS liability status, and the level of accumulated HECS debt.

## Violence

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Exposure to gun violence makes adolescents twice as likely to perpetrate serious violence in the next two years according to a University of Michigan study. Researchers found there is a substantial cause and effect relationship between exposure and perpetration of violence.

Jeffrey E. Bingenheimer, a doctoral student in health behavior and health education, analyzed five years of data from adolescents living in 78 neighborhoods in Chicago. Bingenheimer is lead author on a paper in this week's journal Science.

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## Edible insects

Fancy a locust for lunch? Probably not, if you live in the west, but elsewhere it's a different story. Edible insects – termites, stick insects, dragonflies, grasshoppers and giant water bugs – are on the menu for an estimated 80 per cent of the world's population. More than 1000 species of insects are served up around the world. For example, "kungu cakes" – made from midges – are a delicacy in parts of Africa. Mexico is an insect-eating – or entomophagous – hotspot, where more than 200 insect species are consumed. Demand is so high that 40 species are now under threat, including white agave worms. These caterpillars of the tequila giant-skipper butterfly fetch around \$250 a kilogram. Eating insects makes nutritional sense. Some contain more protein than meat or fish. The female gypsy moth, for instance, is about 80 per cent protein. Insects can be a good source of vitamins and minerals too: a type of caterpillar (Usta terpsichore) eaten in Angola is rich in iron, zinc and thiamine. What do they taste like? Ants have a lemon tang, apparently, whereas giant water bugs taste of mint and fire ant pupae of watermelon. You have probably, inadvertently, already tasted some of these things, as insects are often accidental tourists in other types of food. The US Food and Drug Administration even issues guidelines for the number of insect parts allowed in certain foods. For example, it is acceptable for 225 grams of macaroni to contain up to 225 insect fragments.

## Exploring the deep ocean floor

The **ocean floor** is home to many unique communities of plants and animals. Most of these marine ecosystems are near the water surface, such as the Great Barrier Reef, a 2,000-km-long coral **formation** off the north eastern coast of Australia. Coral reefs, like nearly all complex living communities, depend on solar energy for growth (photosynthesis). The sun's energy, however, penetrates at most only about 300 m below the surface of the water. The relatively shallow penetration of solar energy and the sinking of cold, sub polar water combine to make most of the deep **ocean floor** a **frigid** environment with few life forms.

In 1977, scientists discovered hot springs at a depth of 2.5 km, on the Galapagos Rift (spreading ridge) off the coast of Ecuador. This exciting discovery was not really a **surprise**. Since the early 1970s, scientists had predicted that hot springs (geothermal vents) should be found at the active spreading centres along the mid-oceanic ridges, where magma, at temperatures over 1,000 °C, **presumably** was being erupted to form new oceanic crust. More exciting, because it was totally **unexpected**, was the discovery of abundant and unusual sea life - giant tube worms, huge clams, and mussels - that **thrived** around the hot springs.

## Top business schools' prerequisite

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In an attempt to lure new students, leading business schools - including Harvard, Stanford, the University of Chicago and Wharton - have moved away from the unofficial admissions prerequisite of four years' work experience and instead have set their sights on recent college graduates and so-called "early career" professionals with only a couple years of work under their belt.

## Distance learning

Distance learning can be highly beneficial to a large variety of people from young students wanting to expand their horizons to adults looking for more job security. With programs that allow learners of all ages to take courses for fun, personal advancement and degrees, distance learning can meet the **needs** of a diverse population.

Perhaps one of the most notable and often talked about **advantages** of distance learning is the flexibility. The majority of programs allow students to learn when and where it's convenient for them. For **those** who are struggling to balance their distance learning goals with working a full-time job and taking care of a family, this kind of flexibility can allow many people to pursue education who would not otherwise be able to do so. **Since** there are no **on-campus** courses to attend, students can learn from their own homes, at work on their lunch breaks and from virtually anywhere with internet access. For some, it can even be a big source of savings on the fuel costs and time required to commute to classes.

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## Ministerial staffing system

The contemporary ministerial staffing system is large, active and partisan - far larger and further evolved than any Westminster equivalent. Ministers' demands for help to cope with the pressures of an increasingly competitive and professionalised political environment have been key drivers of the staffing system's development. But there has not been commensurate growth in arrangements to support and control it. The operating framework for ministerial staff is fragmented and ad hoc.

## Advertising a global perspective

Drive down any highway, and you'll see a proliferation of chain restaurants – most likely, if you travel long and far enough, you'll see McDonald's golden arches as well as signs for Burger King, Hardee's, and Wendy's, the "big four" of burgers. Despite its name, though, Burger King has fallen short of **claiming** the burger crown, unable to surpass market leader McDonald's No.1 sales status. Always the bridesmaid and never the bride, Burger King remains No.2. Worse yet, Burger King has experienced a six-year 22 percent decline in customer traffic, with its overall quality rating dropping while ratings for the other three **contenders** have increased. The decline has been **attributed** to inconsistent product quality and poor customer service. Although the chain tends to throw advertising dollars at the problem, an understanding of Integrated Marketing Communication theory would suggest that internal management problems (nineteen CEOs in fifty years) need to be **rectified** before a unified, long-term strategy can be put in place.

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The **importance** of consistency in brand image and messages, at all levels of communication, has become a basic tenet of IMC theory and practice. The person who takes the customer's order must communicate the same message as Burger King's famous tagline, "Have it your way," or the customer will just buzz up the highway to a chain restaurant that seems more consistent and, therefore, more **reliable**.

## Visual Arts

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It is the **assertion** of this article that students who use visual art as a prewriting stimulus are composing their ideas both in images and in words. The result of the art **creation** process allows students the distance to **elaborate**, add details, and create more coherent text. The process of writing is more than putting words on a **piece** of paper.

Effective authors are able to create **imagery** and to communicate ideas using well-chosen words, phrases, and text structures. Emergent writers struggle with the **mechanics** of **the writing** process, i.e., fine motor control for printing legibly, recall of spelling patterns, and the use of syntax and grammar rules. As a result, texts written by young writers tend to be simplistic and formulaic. The artwork **facilitates the writing** process, resulting in a text that is richer in sensory detail and more **intricate** than the more traditional writing-first crayon drawing-second **approach**.

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## Method of difference

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The logic of the scientific method was set out by John Stuart Mill in 1843, and was named the method of difference. A simple example of what he meant by this is to take two glasses of water which are **identical** in every respect. Introduce a few drops of ink into one of these glasses. The water changes color. According to Mill's method of difference it is safe to assume that the change in the color of the water is due to the **introduction** of a new factor - the independent variable in this case, the ink.

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## Nature

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Nature is no longer an alien **enigma**, but instead something immediately beautiful, an exuberant **opus** with space for us to join in. Bird melodies have always been called songs for a **reason**. As long as we have been listening, people have presumed there is music coming out of those scissoring beaks.

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