
Problem Set 2: Firstness, Secondness, Thirdness

Working Definitions

Peirce's conceptions of **firstness**, **secondness**, and **thirdness** have been presented in various ways by various people, but the essence of these terms is reasonably well captured by the following simple articulations which we will adopt as working definitions for this problem set:

1. **Firstness**: The form of meaning derived from **feeling**, or **isolated perception**.
2. **Secondness**: The form of meaning derived from **relations**, or **differences among perceived facts**.
3. **Thirdness** - The form of meaning derived from **conventional rules**, rules governing social/cultural interactions and practices.

Instructions

1. Perform the three tasks.
2. Prepare a document which presents your work in a complete, coherent fashion. Be sure to title your document, present a short abstract describing the contents of your document, and then structure your document so that you have a section of work for each of the three tasks.
3. Save your file as a **PDF document**, and reply to the appropriate email by attaching your work in the form of that **PDF document**.

Task 1: Firstness, Secondness, Thirdness in Song Lyrics

Search the world for three different **songs**, each of which possesses a lyric that you can use to advantage in performing the following subtasks:

1. (1) Identify a song, by title and performing artist or composer, within which a line or two of lyric rings of **firstness**. (2) Write down that line or two of lyric, emphasizing the most salient words in the lyric with respect to **firstness**. (3) Do your best to articulate in just one sentence how you believe those words of the lyric embody **firstness**.
2. (1) Identify a song, by title and performing artist or composer, within which a line or two of lyric rings of **secondness**. (2) Write down that line or two of lyric, emphasizing the most salient words in the lyric with respect to **secondness**. (3) Do your best to articulate in just one sentence how you believe those words of the lyric embody **secondness**.
3. (1) Identify a song, by title and performing artist or composer, within which a line or two of lyric rings of **thirdness**. (2) Write down that line or two of lyric, emphasizing the most salient words in the lyric with respect to **thirdness**. (3) Do your best to articulate in just one sentence how you believe those words of the lyric embody **thirdness**.

Task 2: Firstness, Secondness, Thirdness in the Movies

Search the world for **movie stills** from three different movies, each of which you can use to advantage in performing the following subtasks:

1. (1) Identify the movie, by title and director, from which you have taken a still that you believe conveys meaning by virtue of **firstness**. (2) Present the movie still. (3) Do your best to articulate in just one sentence how you believe the image features **firstness**.
2. (1) Identify the movie, by title and director, from which you have taken a still that you believe conveys meaning by virtue of **secondness**. (2) Present the movie still. (3) Do your best to articulate in just one sentence how you believe the image features **secondness**.
3. (1) Identify the movie, by title and director, from which you have taken a still that you believe conveys meaning by virtue of **thirdness**. (2) Present the movie still. (3) Do your best to articulate in just one sentence how you believe the image features **thirdness**.

Task 3: Firstness, Secondness, Thirdness within the Sonic Realm

Find three different “**sonic events**” (e.g., natural sound, conventional sound, piece of (instrumental) music) that you will be able to use to advantage in performing the following subtasks:

1. (1) Identify a sonic event that you believe makes its meaning by virtue of **firstness**. (2) Do your best to articulate in just one sentence how you believe the sonic event features **firstness**.
2. (2) Identify a sonic event that you believe makes its meaning by virtue of **secondness**. (2) Do your best to articulate in just one sentence how you believe the sonic event features **secondness**.
3. (3) Identify a sonic event that you believe makes its meaning by virtue of **thirdness**. (2) Do your best to articulate in just one sentence how you believe the sonic event features **thirdness**.

Due Date

Please complete your work on this assignment, and reply to the appropriate email, attaching your work in the form of a **PDF file**, by the end of the day on Wednesday, September 29, 2021.

Model

http://www.cs.oswego.edu/~blue/course_pages/2021/Fall/CognitiveSemiotics/scd/PS2_FST_Model.pdf