

Stanley Fish Quotes

*Writing, Firsts, People, Abortion, Ideas, Doe, Giving, Choices, Political,
Sentences, Practice, Looks, University, Structure, Education, Reading, Moral,
Speech, Helping, Philosophical*

This is what language does: organize the world into manageable, and in some sense artificial, units that can then be inhabited and manipulated.

~Stanley Fish

The purpose of a good education is to show you that there are three sides to a two-sided story.

~Stanley Fish

Just as you can practice three-word sentences or sentences that travel across time zones, so can you practice writing sentences that breathe unshakable conviction.

~Stanley Fish

It is of no help to us that there is an absolute truth of the matter of things because unfortunately, none of us are in a position to say definitively what that is - although we all think that we are.

~Stanley Fish

Belief and knowledge are considered to be two different things. But they are not.

~Stanley Fish

The first thing to ask when writing a sentence is 'What am I trying to do?'

~Stanley Fish

Sentences can save us. Who could ask for anything more?

~Stanley Fish

The idea - the core idea of humanism - is that the act of reading about great deeds will lead you to imitate them.

~Stanley Fish

It is always incorrect to assume you can know what someone's moral convictions are based on their philosophical theories.

~Stanley Fish

It may sound paradoxical, but verbal fluency is the product of many hours spent writing about nothing, just as musical fluency is the product of hours spent repeating scales.

~Stanley Fish

Sentence writers are not copyists; they are selectors.

~Stanley Fish

People write or speak sentences in order to produce an effect, and the success of a sentence is measured by the degree to which the desired effect has been achieved.

~Stanley Fish

I should have known better. Pro-life arguments are now based on scientific evidence and the pro-choice arguments are not. That is a cultural, historical fact.

~Stanley Fish

In general, higher education does not know how to speak for its interests. It offers a stance that is defensive, cowardly and likely to be ineffective.

~Stanley Fish

We in universities are not in the democracy business. What we do, when we're doing it, is teach and learn.

~Stanley Fish

I do not support abortion rights. Although what I would support in this vexed area is not clear to me.

~Stanley Fish

A pro-choice advocate sees abortion as a decision to be made in accordance with the best scientific opinion as to when the beginning of life, as we know it, occurs.

~Stanley Fish

Language is not a handmaiden to perception; it is perception; it gives shape to what would otherwise be inert and dead.

~Stanley Fish

No word floats without an anchoring connection within an overall structure.

~Stanley Fish

The category of first sentence makes sense only if it is looking forward to the development of thematic concerns it perhaps only dimly foreshadows.

~Stanley Fish

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