

'Pragmatism' (pub. 17.10.15-17:58). Quote in M. Bergman & S. Paavola (Eds.), *The Commens Dictionary: Peirce's Terms in His Own Words. New Edition*. Retrieved from <http://www.commens.org/dictionary/entry/quote-pragmatism-88>.

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**Term:** Pragmatism

**Quote:** [Pragmatism] says nothing directly as to the truth of things: but is merely a method professing to disclose the *meaning* of any and every abstract concept or general word, phrase, or conception, provided its meaning be of an intellectual nature. [—] I do not understand by pragmatism a method of ascertaining the meanings of all sorts of concepts, but only of “intellectual concepts,” or those upon which reasonings may turn. [—] Pragmatism looks upon a concept as a mental sign, or medium between the object to which it is moulded and the “meaning,” or effect which the object is enabled by the concept to produce; and in all general inquiries about signs nothing is of more lively importance than maintaining a clear and sharp distinction between the object, or professed cause of the sign, and the meaning, or intended effect of it.

**Source:** Peirce, C. S. (1907 [c.]). *Pragmatism*. MS [R] 320.

**References:** MS [R] 320:5-7

**Date of** 1907 [c.]

**Quote:**

**URL:** <http://www.commens.org/dictionary/entry/quote-pragmatism-88>