Verbal Reasoning by Modality

Language says less than it means, on purpose. The rest is inferred.

Verbal reasoning is thinking with language: inferring, weighing, comparing, and reading between the lines. Writers and speakers leave gaps on purpose, trusting us to fill them, and to make meaning is to supply what was **implied but never stated**.

Reading

A reader has to supply whatever the text leaves unsaid, drawing on logic, clues, and the sense the words have built so far, often predicting what comes next and revising when a sentence turns. The words on the page are always fewer than the meaning behind them. Closing that gap, line by line, is the reasoning we call reading.

Writing

Writers imply more to the reader than they state explicitly. Trusting the reader to fill the gaps, while offering enough language to support them where necessary, is a delicate writing dance. A writer who states every idea outright will have flat and boring writing. If they leave just the right gaps, the writing can come alive.

Listening

A listener fills the gaps as fast as the words arrive, predicting what is coming, linking each phrase to the last, and reading tone, stress, and timing for what the speaker only implies. Verbal reasoning during listening is active, immediate, and continuous.

Speaking

A skilled speaker leaves room for the listener to infer, using implication, tone, subtlety, gesture, and timing to carry meaning beyond the literal. A meaning the listener infers for themselves takes hold more firmly than one simply handed over.

The words are never the whole of it. Meaning lives between the lines.

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