

Re: Being balanced

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C. Bond wrote:

> *jstevh@msn.com* wrote:

>

> [snip]

>

>> *Usually, if I'm talking about a problem on Usenet I'm brainstorming it.*

>

> *According to the bulk of your posting record (you can check this at any*

> *time), you are usually *promoting* a so-called solution to a problem, not*

> *brainstorming. In the majority of your posts you are defending your cause,*

> *regardless of its merits, with a vigorous, sometimes militant, and*

> *sometimes hysterical passion. In the rest of your posts, you are generally*

> *snivelling about liars and conspirators. Neither of these is*

> *'brainstorming'.*

>

> [snip]

>

Well, yeah, I've spent a lot of time promoting ideas that I'm brainstorming, and I've done so in highly creative ways.

It's a creative process.

There are people who get angry about my posting.

And they are angry enough to reply obsessively in the negative to my posts.

For me brainstorming is generating a lot of ideas in a particular problem area, and putting them out there.

There are posters who get angry, so they come after my posts with a lot of extra, so I end up defending ideas early in the process to keep them

from being unfairly trashed.

Worse, I've seen posters make questionable claims, so that their counterclaims against my ideas have to be critiqued carefully, which is just extra work that I don't like doing, so I often would shift to avoiding their claims, or quickly dismissing them if I could find any basis for doing so, as they weren't reliable.

Now, however, in the critical phase, I can go slowly and carefully considering both my own ideas and claims against them, without fear that the now mature ideas will be tossed prematurely.

You see, with mature ideas you don't have to actively defend them.

If they can't stand against anyone and everyone—including you—then they're not valid.

So, I no longer need to be defensive about ideas I feel are mature, so I can instead be a critic, to test them as rigorously as possible.

James Harris