

Third Discussion Paper (Due Friday, April 4):

Write a five-page essay on either one of the following two topics.

1. In *The Two Cultures*, C. P. Snow writes the following about scientists who do not read literature, history, and philosophy:

It isn't that they're not interested in the psychological or moral or social life. In the social life, they certainly are, more than most of us. In the moral, they are by and large the soundest group of intellectuals we have; there is a moral component right in the grain of science itself, and almost all scientists form their own judgments of the moral life. . . . It isn't that they lack the interests. It is much more that the whole literature of traditional culture doesn't seem to them relevant to those interests. They are, of course, dead wrong. As a result, their imaginative understanding is less than it could be. They are self-impoverished. (pp. 13-14)

What do you take Snow really to be saying here? What is meant by the "impoverishment" of the scientists' "imaginative understanding"? Do you agree with Snow or disagree? Is there a problem here that needs a cure? If so, what is the cure?

2. You are the theater critic for the *South Bend Tribune* and have been assigned the task of writing an article about Michael Frayn's *Copenhagen* in anticipation of its South Bend premiere. Given the importance of the play and the success it enjoyed in its London and New York runs, and wanting to do his part to help generate a good audience for the local production, the managing editor of the paper has given you rather more space than is normal for such an article, but he has also instructed you to inform yourself well about the background to the play, so that your article can delve into the issues raised in the play and discuss them at length. Write that article.