

Looking closer at a digital written genre (ongoing, collaborative, technical-professional, formal/informal, concise): the expert forums

In groups, read these two forum sequences:

Example 1:

Modern transistors are already minuscule. Do you think that size reduction is still possible? Will Moore's law be obeyed forever, or is there a limit?

Participant 1

The limit is only passing once the quantum level, and even that is starting to be used at our advantage, but eventually there will have to be a limit until the chips become bigger, which is an option as well.

Participant 2

the limit has already been passed.

Participant 3

I think that the size of the transistor can actually get smaller to the point where it can be human movable and manipulable, that should be the limit, but if they make smaller it will be better so we can smaller devices. Smaller is always better.

Participant 4

I've read on a scientific website that the moore's law can't be applicable forever. This is true because the companies are starting to focus on creating devices with less energy consumption, what will decrease their performance.

Example 2:

Many GPS applications are used for mapping and directions. What other uses for GPS can you think of?

Participant 1

In the movie "Interstellar", GPS is used to locate and control tractors on the family farm, but I found out that this is already being done today, in real life. I'd like to learn more on what this "precision agriculture" is all about.

Participant 2

Cars such as Google's (without a human driver) need to interact with the other vehicles. Thanks to GPS, each car 'knows' where the other cars are. They constantly interact. Thanks to GPS and automatic driving, traffic jams may be reduced by 30 %.

Participant 3

This is incorrect. Self-driving cars will need not only location awareness of themselves (partially provided by GPS) they will need instantaneous collision awareness provided by other sensors.

Participant 4

This is correct. They will need more sensors then ever but I think Participant 2's answer is based on a statistic story and it will be like this in the next 20 years. But really guys, I can't imagine sitting in the car and doing nothing. ;-) Maybe on the highway but not in the city traffic.

Now, let's discuss their content in terms of: 1. Keywords (technical concepts); 2. Language functions (agree, disagree, provide new information, explain, define...); 3. Formal vs. informal language use (spelling and punctuation mistakes); 4. How each entry refers to the previous ones.