

The following comments are thinking-starters only,  
as preparation for group discussion. Add and/or subtract.

	(D) dialog	(C) monolog
exterior	A	B
interior	D	C

**POSITION A**

1. Is the origin of consciousness (G. H. Mead), our experience of others' conversation--usually first, our parents--which serves as a sound-womb for the creation of self-consciousness.
2. This interior reverberation of heard dialog (D) is soon attended by the emergence of a third voice, the emerging person, "talking to himself" (B)
- 3....and beginning to "think" (C).
4. Should A ever be withdrawn, humanity becomes (as in solitary confinement) difficult to sustain: we are social products, created by God in the social womb.
5. If we ourselves willfully withdraw from A, it may be
  - a. Healthy, in which case we're "getting our thing together alone" (C) and/or praying (D), or
  - b. Neurotic, in which case we are drifting away from the painful/joyful encounters essential to our health and growth.
- 6.

**POSITION B**

1. Is soliloquy, "talking [audibly] to oneself."
2. Demands some privacy (at least in most societies).
3. Postplays dialogs.
4. Preplays dialogs.
5. Strengthens and sharpens self-awareness.
6. Improves the mind's analytic power.
7. Engages the viscera as subvocalization cannot.
- 8.

**POSITION C**

1. Is meditation.
2. Is the major mode of Eastern-hemisphere religion in its philosophical forms.
3. Includes all philosophizing, East and West and South and North.
4. Is the consciousness mode of "mind" (in the specialized sense, as distinguished from "psyche" [the fantasy life, the dream world, imagination, intuition] and "spirit" [the deciding dimension]): "mind" is naturally monist [as in the Eastern saying "To know God is to be God"] and atheist [as it is monological, excluding all others and the One-Who-Remains-Other, the biblical God].
- 5.

**POSITION D**

1. Is prayer personal, as position A toward God is public prayer.
2. Is the major mode of Western-hemisphere religion in its popular and philosophical forms, and of Eastern-hemisphere religion in its popular forms.
3. Preserves and enriches personal individuality, by permanently and daily positioning the self over against and with the Self [the "I" and "the Eternal Thou"].
4. Postplays and preplays responsible relations with the rest of the creation, under the providence of the one Creator, to his praise and the joy of the whole creation.
- 5.