

College Writing II

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Locke, "Qualities and Ideas" (Essay . . .) – pp. 86-90

A "quality" of matter, according to Locke, is a power or property perceived by our senses and used to form our ideas about objects. These characteristics are inherent in objects and are not dependent on our perception of them.

The extension (the property of occupying space), shape (the property of having a particular form), and motion are three examples of Locke's Primary Qualities (the property of being able to move). Color (the property of reflecting certain wavelengths of light), sound (the property of producing vibrations in the air), and taste are three examples of Secondary Qualities (the property of causing a particular sensation on the tongue). According to Locke, Primary Qualities are objective and exist in the objects themselves, whereas Secondary Qualities do not exist in the objects themselves. Our senses perceive and use to form our ideas about objects. are subjective and based on the observer's perception.

Locke describes a piece of wax in his writing as having certain primary qualities such as extension, shape, and solidity that remain constant even when the wax is melted and changes its secondary qualities such as color, taste, and smell. This distinction clarifies the reality of the wax because it demonstrates that certain

properties are inherent in the wax and remain constant, whereas others are dependent on our perception and change with different conditions.

Berkeley, "Nothing Outside the Mind" (Principles . . .) – pp. 97-102

According to Berkeley's definition of "existence," something is real or exists if it is perceivable or can be perceived by some mind or consciousness. He believes that to exist is to be perceived or capable of being perceived.

Berkeley believes that we should not believe in independent Primary Qualities because all qualities are Secondary Qualities that are dependent on the perceiver. Primary Qualities, such as extension and shape, he believes, cannot exist independently of perception and are thus unreal. This implies that matter, as traditionally defined as a substance with independent existence, is not real either.

Berkeley asserts that the ultimate source of all sensory experiences we receive is God's perception as a result of his critique of materialism. He contends that sensory experiences result from God's continuous and immediate action on our minds and that the regularity and coherence of our experiences reflect God's order and wisdom. As a result, all sensory experiences are ultimately derived from God's mind.