

Quantity



Crude and simplistic measure of achievement.



Primary criterion by which to judge success.

In terms of quantities at least, the contemporary visual arts have literally never been so successful.

Paul Greenhalgh, President, Nova Scotia College of Arts

Accident & Emergency patients nearing the end of the four-hour wait designated as a maximum by the government are routinely moved out of A&E and into holding areas, so that they can be classified as having been dealt with. Sometimes these areas are little more than rooms next to A&E units, or even corridors.

Daily Telegraph

With everyone *equal* (i.e. identical), the principal measure of merit or success in a mediocracy is number of people. If more students are passing examinations, more books are being read, and more theatre tickets are being sold, culture must be doing well.

A predilection for counting turns into a more general obsession with measurement. The benefits of measurement are that it:

- avoids the need for thinking,
- can be used to skate over underlying problems,
- conveys the idea of society *assessing* individuals, and
- reinforces egalitarianism by assuming uniformity in the units being counted.