Naming What Prose Is Doing

An End-to-End Demonstration of the Informative Authoring Semantics Profile

IASP Reference Demonstration

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An End-to-End Demonstration of the Informative Authoring Semantics Profile (v0.1.0)

> Complex writing benefits from having names for complexity.
> — *Informative Authoring Semantics Profile, Core Specification*

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This short essay demonstrates the **Informative Authoring Semantics Profile (IASP)** across every target supported by `iasp-mcp`: standalone HTML, XeLaTeX PDF (screen and print), EPUB 3, and Ghost Markdown. Each semantic wrapper names *what a passage is doing* in the argument rather than how a particular format encodes it.

1. Intent Before Formatting

When authors revise a long-form manuscript or essay, their marginalia rarely speak in the language of HTML tags or LaTeX environments. Instead, an author asks: *Is this paragraph part of the spine of the chapter, or is it a parallel digression? Is this aside offering a concrete example, stating a methodological premise, or warning against an easy misreading?*

IASP separates those two questions into orthogonal axes that compose with a dot (`delivery.modifier`):

1. **Axis A — Delivery Roles** (`chapter`, `section`, `bridge`, `sidebar`, `callout`, `note`, `footnote`, `epigraph`, `appendix`) describe how a passage sits relative to the main narrative flow.
2. **Axis B — Modifiers** (`thesis`, `counterpoint`, `example`, `definition`, `insight`, `warning`, `methodology`, `scope`, `synthesis`, `breadcrumb`, `closing`, and others) describe the intellectual move, expository support, or epistemic stance the passage contributes.

Compositional Intent (`delivery.modifier`): A two-part (or multi-part) Pandoc class token where the leftmost term names the *delivery role* and subsequent terms *qualify intent*. Writing `note.insight` does not mean "an insight is a subtype of note"; it means "this ancillary note functions as an insight at this point in the text."[a]

[a] In Pandoc's fenced-div syntax, `::: note.insight` and `::: {.note .insight}` produce the same AST classes (`["note", "insight"]`) once processed by `iasp-semantics.lua`.

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Structural markup vs. authoring intent: EPUB Structural Semantics (`epub:type="aside"`) and DPUB-ARIA (`role="doc-example"`) name document structure for assistive technologies and reading systems. IASP names the author's rhetorical and epistemic intent first, then lets the Lua filter (`iasp-semantics.lua`) project that intent onto `epub:type`, ARIA roles, LaTeX `mdframed` environments, and Ghost HTML cards.

2. Parallel Tracks, Examples, and Included Fragments

Not every supporting illustration belongs in the main column of an argument. A `sidebar` signals that a reader can pause for context or skip ahead without losing the thread. Composing `sidebar` with `example` or `background` records *why* the digression is there.

SIDEBAR

Case Illustration: One Source, Four Renderings

Consider a passage marked `::: note.warning`. During a build:

- **EPUB / HTML** receives `<div class="note warning" epub:type="note">` styled via CSS custom properties (`--note-border-color`, `--note-background-color`).
- **XeLaTeX PDF** wraps the block in `\begin{noteboxwarning}` with `\notevariant{warning}` injecting the calm ※ badge header.
- **Ghost Markdown** emits a CommonMark Type-6 HTML `<div>` container with an inline badge so inner Markdown (links, emphasis, footnotes) continues to parse natively.

Long-form works also reuse sidebars or case studies across chapters and annexes via `.include` directives:

🗒 **Included Fragment (`lexical-precision-sidebar.md`):** This inline sidebar was pulled into the essay at build time via `::: {.include path="demo/fragments/lexical-precision-sidebar.md"}`. Both the Pandoc Lua filter (`iasp/include.lua`) and the Ghost exporter (`src/ghost.ts`) expand `.include` directives before rendering inner semantic blocks.

Unmarked prose is always assumed to be part of the main flow. Silence is a valid authorial decision; IASP exists to support thinking, not to enforce exhaustive tagging.

Having seen how delivery roles and modifiers compose on individual blocks, we can examine how note variants and stage guards behave during iterative drafting and verification.

3. Note Variants and Epistemic Stance

While any Axis B modifier may compose with any Axis A delivery role, the build pipeline recognizes twenty-two `note-variants` (tracked as a profile set in `terminology-mcp`), each with its own visual cadence:

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Taxonomy as a living replica: Because `iasp-mcp` follows `terminology-mcp`'s numbered changelog for the `iasp` scheme, adding or refining a modifier in `terminology-mcp` propagates automatically to the local SQLite store, MCP lookup tools, and Markdown validator.

⊢

Static verification before Pandoc runs: The `validate_markdown` tool checks fence balance (`:::`), catches level-1 headers (`#`) inside sidebars before they corrupt LaTeX `mdframed` badge placement, verifies `.include` paths, and flags unknown or retired IASP classes against `terminology-mcp`.

※

Avoid using level-1 headings (`# Heading`) inside `.sidebar` or `.aside` wrappers. In XeLaTeX builds, `\section` spacing interacts poorly with framed sidebar boxes; use `##` or `###` instead.

□

- **Delivery role chosen?** Leftmost class names placement relative to the main flow (`note`, `sidebar`, `bridge`, `callout`).
- **Modifier specific?** Qualifier names the rhetorical or expository work (`insight`, `contrast`, `methodology`, `warning`).
- **Fences balanced?** Every opening `:::` has a matching closing `:::` on its own line.

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Takeaway: When authoring vocabulary, validation, and rendering share one semantic profile, writers can focus on prose and structure while agents handle verification and multi-format output.

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End of the `iasp-mcp` reference demonstration. Use `render_document` with `source: "demo"` to rebuild this essay in `html`, `ghost`, `pdf`, `epub`, `docx`, or `rtf`.

Works Cited

- Majerus, John. *Informative Authoring Semantics Profile* (*IASP*) — *Core Specification*. 2026.