

INSTRUMENTALISM

Meaning: Instrumentalism is a philosophical approach that views scientific theories as useful instruments for predicting phenomena rather than as accurate descriptions of reality.

1. Instrumentalism suggests that theories are merely tools for prediction rather than reflections of reality.
2. In the philosophy of science, instrumentalism is often contrasted with realism, which asserts that theories correspond to the truth.
3. Many scientists embrace instrumentalism as it allows for practical applications without getting mired in metaphysical debates.
4. Critics of instrumentalism argue that it fails to account for the explanatory power of scientific theories beyond mere utility.
5. The rise of instrumentalism in the 20th century marked a significant shift in how scientists viewed the role of theoretical constructs.

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