Term: Assertion

Quote: …an assertion belongs to the class of phenomena like going before a notary and making an affidavit, executing a deed, signing a note, of which the essence is that one voluntarily puts oneself into a situation in which penalties will be incurred unless some proposition is true. One may maintain that every proposition involves an assertion. Very likely that may be true as a psychological truth; but if so the element of assertion is frequently altogether or in great degree inhibited and disavowed. I have nothing further to say about assertion.


References: CP 8.313

Date of Quote: 1905-01-22

URL: http://www.commens.org/dictionary/entry/quote-letters-william-james-22