

**TOK Summer Assignment**  
**Presentation on a prescribed title**  
**Due date: 8/14-15**

**Assignment's purpose:**

To get you started thinking about how to approach prescribed titles. The prescribed titles for your real TOK essay will be released September 1, 2018.

**You will be assigned a prescribed title on which to present. (See pg 2 for titles and 3 for assigned title.)**

**Presentation format requirements:**

- 5-7-minute presentation
- should have some sort of visual (poster, PPT, prezi, etc.)
- can be creative (opportunity for points!)

**Presentation content requirements:**

- main response to the KQ (thesis)
- at least one ORIGINAL KQ that is relevant to the discussion of the title **AND** its response
- one real life SPECIFIC example from one of the areas of knowledge as support to discussion of title and KQ
- counterclaim
- implications of conclusion

**You will be assessed on the following:**

- Clarity of thesis
- Understanding of the prescribed title
- Quality of KQ
- Specificity of Example
- Overall Quality of Analysis
- Validity of Counterclaim
- Implications
- Creativity (Bonus)

1. Ethical judgments limit the methods available in the production of knowledge in both the arts and the natural sciences. Discuss.
2. "When the only tool you have is a hammer, all problems begin to resemble nails" (Abraham Maslow). How might this apply to ways of knowing, as tools, in the pursuit of knowledge?
3. "Knowledge is nothing more than the systematic organisation of facts." Discuss this statement in relation to two areas of knowledge.
4. "That which is accepted as knowledge today is sometimes discarded tomorrow." Consider knowledge issues raised by this statement in two areas of knowledge.
5. "The historian's task is to understand the past; the human scientist, by contrast, is looking to change the future." To what extent is this true in these areas of knowledge?
6. "A skeptic is one who is willing to question any knowledge claim, asking for clarity in definition, consistency in logic and adequacy of evidence" (adapted from Paul Kurtz, 1994). Evaluate this approach in two areas of knowledge.
7. In what ways may disagreement aid the pursuit of knowledge in the natural and human sciences?
8. "Only seeing general patterns can give us knowledge. Only seeing particular examples can give us understanding." To what extent do you agree with these assertions?
9. "The possession of knowledge carries an ethical responsibility." Evaluate this claim.
10. The traditional TOK diagram indicates four ways of knowing. Propose the inclusion of a fifth way of knowing selected from intuition, memory or imagination, and explore the knowledge issues it may raise in two areas of knowledge.
11. "That which can be asserted without evidence can be dismissed without evidence." (Christopher Hitchens). Do you agree?
12. Can we know when to trust our emotions in the pursuit of

knowledge? Consider history and one other area of knowledge.
13. There is no such thing as a neutral question. Evaluate this statement with reference to two areas of knowledge.
14. "There are only two ways in which humankind can produce knowledge: through passive observation or through active experiment." To what extent do you agree with this statement?
15. "There is no reason why we cannot link facts and theories across disciplines and create a common groundwork of explanation." To what extent do you agree with this statement?
16. With reference to two areas of knowledge discuss the way in which shared knowledge can shape personal knowledge.
17. "Ways of knowing are a check on our instinctive judgments." To what extent do you agree with this statement?
18. "The whole point of knowledge is to produce both meaning and purpose in our personal lives." To what extent do you agree with this statement?
19. "In gaining knowledge, each area of knowledge uses a network of ways of knowing." Discuss this statement with reference to two areas of knowledge.
20. "Knowledge within a discipline develops according to the principles of natural selection." How useful is this metaphor?
21. "The knower's perspective is essential in the pursuit of knowledge." To what extent do you agree?
22. "Without application in the world, the value of knowledge is greatly diminished." Consider this claim with respect to two areas of knowledge.
23. To what extent do the concepts that we use shape the conclusions that we reach?
24. "In knowledge there is always a trade-off between accuracy and simplicity." Evaluate this statement in relation to two areas of knowledge.
25. "It is only knowledge produced with difficulty that we truly value."

To what extent do you agree with this statement?
26. "Facts are needed to establish theories but theories are needed to make sense of facts." Discuss this statement with reference to two areas of knowledge.
27. Should key events in the historical development of areas of knowledge always be judged by the standards of their time?
28. "In the production of knowledge, traditions of areas of knowledge offer correctives for ways of knowing." To what extent do you agree with this statement?
29. Given access to the same facts, how is it possible that there can be disagreement between experts in a discipline? Develop your answer with reference to two areas of knowledge.
30. "Humans are pattern seeking animals and we are adept at finding patterns whether they exist or not" (adapted from Michael Shermer). Discuss knowledge questions raised by this idea in two areas of knowledge.
31. "The fields of study of academic disciplines can overlap, but adopting interdisciplinary approaches to the production of knowledge leads only to confusion." Discuss this claim.
32. "We know with confidence only when we know little; with knowledge doubt increases" (adapted from JW von Goethe). Discuss this statement with reference to two areas of knowledge.
33. "Without the assumption of the existence of uniformities there can be no knowledge." Discuss this claim with reference to two areas of knowledge.
34. "Suspension of disbelief" is an essential feature of theatre. Is it essential in other areas of knowledge? Develop your answer with reference to two areas of knowledge.
35. "The quality of knowledge produced by an academic discipline is directly proportional to the duration of historical development of that discipline." Explore this claim with reference to two disciplines.
36. "Robust knowledge requires both consensus and disagreement." Discuss this claim with reference to two areas of knowledge.

## Title assignments:

1	Abel	Sophie	6	Fair	Carter	12	Mcdowell	Merritt
2	Ackbar	Alyssa	7	Fata	Stephanie	13	Migliara	Loren
3	Ambaye	Michael	8	Felton	Alanna	14	Milian	Diego
4	Arias-Zamora	Gabriela	9	Flores	Lizbeth	15	Miller	Stefan
5	Arong	Mya	10	Franklin	Parker	16	Mischka	Greyson
6	Asmussen	Hailey	11	Gabadage	Nimna	17	Morgan	Connor
7	Atkinson	Garrett	12	Gibbons	Meghan	18	Narvades	Nicholas
8	Bailey	Sophia	13	Goddu	Conner	19	Nguyen	Julie
9	Belton	Anaya	14	Grandoff	Philip	20	Nobeza	Alleah
10	Blumenthal	Mia	15	Gray	Noah	21	Pardeep	Nikhil
11	Bortolot	Kaitlin	16	Guzzetta	Jordan	22	Pearson	Maxx
12	Bourgeois	Logan	17	Hammond	Bennett	23	Pedersen	Kai
13	Boussy	Alden	18	Heath	Juliana	24	Peterson	Elliott
14	Bovarnick	Mia	19	Hendry	Rachel	25	Phan	Julia
15	Bragdon	Zachary	20	Hensgen	Alex	26	Pistorino	Piper
16	Brill	Kathryn	21	Hinz	Gabrielle	27	Prokopp	Michaela
17	Brushwood	Ashlyn	22	Holmstrom	Annika	28	Quach	Matthew
18	Bustillo	Daniella	23	Hsu	Megan	29	Remante	Zachary
19	Carlstedt	Wilson	24	Hurd	Katherine	30	Rodriguez	Samuel
20	Casamento	Alessio	25	Huynh	Kim	31	Roush	Catherine
21	Casanova	Skylar	26	Iavarone	Rocco	32	Scaglione	Ross
22	Casper	Sarah	27	Jacobson	Alaine	33	Schrils	Carson
23	Chad	Jonah	28	Jankel	Annalise	34	Shaffer	Cort
24	Chatfield	Clarisse	29	Johnson	Anders	35	Short	Hayle
25	Check	Connor	30	Johnson	Lauren	36	Smith	Samuel
26	Cohen	Benjamin	31	Johnson	Williston	1	Smith	Julia
27	Cunningham	Cameron	32	Jones	Adriana	2	Smith-Ewing	Alexis
28	Cusseaux-Williams	Mekhi	33	Kim	Dongwoo	3	Sprott	Joanna
29	Dang	Christopher	34	Krinos	Sophia	4	St Onge	Shannah
30	Dann	Sarah	35	Krueger	Tiffany	5	Swanson	Michael
31	Davidson	Samantha	36	Lane	Quinton	6	Sweat	Shaniya
32	De Angelo	Macklin	1	Lawrence	Rebecca	7	Takagishi	Alexandra
33	Debrocke	Danielle	2	Le	Thanh	8	Torres	Maria
34	Deyoung	Daniel	3	Lingechetty	Rakesh	9	Tosado	Isaiah
35	Diaz	Matthew	4	Liu	Catherine	10	Truong	Natasha
36	Dick	Robert	5	Long	Emma	11	Truong	Nathaniel
1	Dowdy	Benjamin	6	Long	Carly	12	Urso	Alec
2	Duffey	Abigail	7	Lowke	Isabelle	13	Van Aelst	Sydney
3	Edwards	Karlin	8	Lowry	Lillian	14	Vincent	Noah
4	Elliott	Jackson	9	Matthews	Rosemary	15	Wadulack	Kaitlyn
5	Embery	Kanen	10	Mazza	Dominic	16	Wedrine	Kristin
			11	Mcclintock	Mae	17	Weil	Raegan

18	Werkmeister	Julian
19	Wiendl	Joseph
20	Wind	Ryan

