

ToK 12
Fall Prescribed Essay

Topic:

Is there solid justification for regarding knowledge in the natural sciences more highly than knowledge in another area of knowledge? Discuss with reference to the natural sciences and one other area of knowledge.

Details:

The essay should

- be between 1400-1600 words in length,
- be double spaced and word processed using 12 point Times New Roman (or a close equivalent) font (written drafts will not be accepted).
- use a consistent format (THSSWG is recommended)
- include support in terms of examples, quotes an/or statistics to support all points (no minimum source requirement, but everything must be supported),
- directly address the PT as written

Sources

There is no minimum source requirement. However, all points in the essay must be supported, so the use of multiple sources is highly recommended.

Students must use only credible sources. The student bears the burden of proof regarding demonstrating source credibility. Source credibility will be established in a separate document that is not part of the PE, but is to be submitted with the PE. Establishment of source credibility must follow all guidelines established in class (during the week of September 20).

The use of IB help sites is forbidden.

Grading

Mr. Haydock will read your drafts, make comments on those drafts and return the comments ten days prior to the due date for the final essay. Mr. Haydock spends a lot of time on these comments. Please use them as a constructive tool to improve your final paper. Students who submit a credible draft (credibility means meeting all of the requirements above and fulfilling academic honesty requirements) will get 100% on the draft and this will count as 5% of your semester grade.

The final paper will be graded based on the IB rubric on the back, but will not be commented

Due dates:

Draft:

Final:

No late drafts will be accepted for any reason

Final thoughts

- Never, ever use flat earth as an example for anything in this class. Ever. I mean it.
- Don't visit IB help sites. Ever. I think they give your computers viruses and may initiate the apocalypse. Why risk it?
- Enjoy the process of writing this paper. I can tell if you enjoyed writing the paper when I read it. Students who enjoy writing the paper will earn better grades, and, in general, live happier, more fulfilling lives.
- Did I mention no flat earth examples? Just checking.

TOK essay assessment instrument

The TOK essay is an opportunity for students to engage in a formal, sustained piece of writing in response to a prescribed title focused on the areas of knowledge. The assessment of this task is underpinned by the following single driving question.

Does the student provide a clear, coherent and critical exploration of the essay title?

The assessment instrument provided describes five levels of performance in response to this driving question. These levels are to be seen as holistic descriptors rather than as a checklist of characteristics.

Does the student provide a clear, coherent and critical exploration of the essay title?					
Excellent 9-10	Good 7-8	Satisfactory 5-6	Basic 3-4	Rudimentary 1-2	0
<p>The discussion has a sustained focus on the title and is linked effectively to areas of knowledge. Arguments are clear, coherent and effectively supported by specific examples. The implications of arguments are considered. There is clear awareness and evaluation of different points of view.</p>	<p>The discussion is focused on the title and is linked effectively to areas of knowledge. Arguments are clear, coherent and supported by examples. There is awareness and some evaluation of different points of view.</p>	<p>The discussion is focused on the title and is developed with some links to areas of knowledge. Arguments are offered and are supported by examples. There is some awareness of different points of view.</p>	<p>The discussion is connected to the title and makes superficial or limited links to areas of knowledge. The discussion is largely descriptive. Limited arguments are offered but they are unclear and are not supported by effective examples.</p>	<p>The discussion is weakly connected to the title. While there may be links to the areas of knowledge, any relevant points are descriptive or consist only of unsupported assertions.</p>	<p>The discussion does not reach the standard described by the other levels or is not a response to one of the prescribed titles for the correct examination session.</p>
Possible characteristics					
<p>Insightful Convincing Accomplished Lucid</p>	<p>Pertinent Relevant Analytical Organized</p>	<p>Acceptable Mainstream Adequate Competent</p>	<p>Underdeveloped Basic Superficial Limited</p>	<p>Ineffective Descriptive Incoherent Formless</p>	