

Summary of topics from last year and this year

Day Number	TOK Concepts	KQ	Content
1	Knowledge claim, certainty	What is knowledge? How do we know?	Posing knowledge claims, evaluating
2	Knowledge and Belief	What is the difference between knowledge and belief?	Defined knowledge and belief
3, 4	Knowledge, belief, certainty	What is the difference between knowledge and belief?	Sorted claims between Knowledge and Belief, ranked certainty
5	Truth, belief	How do we know what is true?	Serena Williams at the US Open, watched video and discussed accusations of sexism, racism
6, 7	Truth	How do we decide what we believe is true?	Definitions of truth, fake news Stephen Colbert Truthiness video Slide show of popular fake news items from 2016 Read and discussed article, "Weird Science: How do we decide what we believe is true?"
8	Personal and Shared knowledge	What is the difference between personal and shared knowledge? What problems arise when trying to share personal knowledge? What effect does knowledge have on the knower?	Sorting claims based on shared or personal knowledge Pencil tapping a song activity
9	Knowledge claim	What is a knowledge question? What effect does knowledge have on the knower?	Posing and evaluating knowledge questions Read "The Source of Bad Writing"
10	Intuition and reason	What roles do intuition and reason play in helping us know? What is their relationship to each other?	Reading on intuition from <i>Blink</i> on the statue that didn't look right

11	Intuition	What roles do intuition and reason play in helping us know? What is their relationship to each other?	Reading from <i>Blink</i> on intuition, what it is, how it works
12	Intuition	How does intuition work? How does intuition help us	Defined intuition Reading on how intuition works
13	Intuition, Reason	How do we develop our intuition? What are its limitations?	Took an implicit association test on racism Reading on the Implicit Association Test
14			
15	Language	How does language help us know?	Reflected on quotes about language and knowledge Defined language and process of communicating through language
16	Language	What effect does language have on our thought processes?	Defined language, mapped out the process Excerpt from Radiolab Podcast: Words Reading from Helen Keller's autobiography
17-18	Language	How do words reflect our experiences and reality?	Which words would be universal across languages? Words that don't exist in other languages Invent your own word activity
19	Language, Religious Knowledge Systems	What are the criteria for a "good translation"? To what extent can we effectively translate knowledge from one language to another?	Radiolab episode excerpt on translation Compare and Contrast John 3:16 passages
20	Language Sense Perception	To what extent can we effectively translate knowledge from one language to another? How do our senses give us	Introduction to Sense Perception Video on Himba tribe, different concept of colors and language

		knowledge of the outside world?	
21	Sense Perception, Language	How do our senses give us knowledge of the outside world?	Wrap up of last class's activity How do you communicate danger (nuclear waste) 10,000 years into the future? Activity
22	Sense Perception	How do our senses give us knowledge of the outside world? How does sense perception vary among different species?	The nature of human sense perception Different animal senses
23	Sense Perception	How do our senses give us knowledge of the outside world? How does our prior knowledge affect what we perceive?	Penn and Teller Prank about the fancy water <i>Article "How Your Brain Tricks You Into Thinking More Expensive Wine Tastes Better"</i>
24	Memory and Sense Perception	How do our senses give us knowledge of the outside world? How does our prior knowledge affect what we perceive?	Article: "How Your Brain Tricks You Into Thinking More Expensive Wine Tastes Better"
25			
26			
27	Memory	How does memory help us know? What are the limitations of our memories?	Article about air crash detectives and the unreliability of eye witness testimony How does memory work?
28-29	Memory	How does memory help us know? What are the limitations of our memories?	Video and article about eye witness accounts in hammer attack in Manhattan
30	Language	How does language help us communicate ideas? How does our choice of words affect how our language is interpreted?	George Carlin Video on "Soft Language" Why do people use euphemisms? Steven Pinker "Language as a window into Human Nature"

31, 32	Sense Perception, Intuition	What is the relationship between intuition and reason in acquiring knowledge? What is the role of perspective in acquiring knowledge?	"The Smirk Seen Round the World" MAGA Protestors and Native American guy with the drum
33	General WOK	TOK Writing Assignment on	"It is impossible for people to acquire knowledge objectively."
34-36	History	How is history constructed?	What is history? How is history constructed? Article on Gavrilo Princip
37	History	How is history constructed? Why does history change if the past doesn't change?	Discussed terms: <i>Consensus</i> , <i>Revisionist History</i> Read article <i>How the Understanding of U.S. History Changes</i> about how History of the Mexican American War has changed
38, 39	History	Why does history change if the past doesn't change? How should we choose to remember the past? How do current circumstances affect how history is written?	John Oliver clip on Historical Monuments being removed Article about Richmond removing Civil War monuments Evaluate the prompt: "Removing monuments to historical figures is like changing history."
40	Art and History	What is the purpose of art? Does artwork have a responsibility to be historically accurate?	Statue based on famous photo of civil rights movement, listened to Revisionist History podcast about the case, does it matter whether it is accurate?
41	Art	What is art? What is the purpose of art?	Evaluated quotes and statements about art. Look at Duchamp's <i>Fountain</i> (urinal) and asked whether it is art
42-43	Art	What is the purpose of art? What makes a work of art great? What is the role of experts in evaluating art?	Read article "Britain's best-loved artwork is a Banksy. That's proof of our stupidity"

44-45	Art	What is the relationship between an artist and the art they create?	Excerpt from Radiolab episode <i>Speedy Beet</i> about Beethoven's Metronome markings Article <i>Six Books Everyone Including Your Teacher Got Wrong</i>
46	Art	What is the definition of art?	Vox Video on "White Canvas" Video "Here's Why You Should Stop Saying 'I Could Do That' About Art"
47	Art and Ethics	What are the ethical limitations on art?	Article about Costa Rican artist presenting a starving street dog as art at a museum
48	Art and Ethics	What are the ethical limitations on art? How do we know what is ethically right?	Article "Teen suicide rates spiked after debut of Netflix show '13 Reasons Why,' study says." What are ethics? Where does our ethical sense come from?
49	Ethics	How do we know what is right and wrong?	The Trolley Problem The Queen vs Dudley and Stephens 1884 court case about the British Navy and Cannibalism
50	Ethics	How do we decide what is ethical?	Free write on moral dilemma Introduction to consequentialism as an ethical approach
51	Ethics	How do we decide what is ethical?	Introduction to deontology as an ethical approach
52	Ethics	How do we decide what is ethical?	Contrasting deontology and consequentialism as ethical theories Looked at video clips from <i>Daredevil</i> comparing differing approaches to ethics
53	Ethics	How do we decide what is ethical?	Is it okay to punch nazis? Discussion and article
54	Ethics	How do we decide what is ethical?	Looked at new ethical theories, Conformity and relativism
55	Natural Sciences	How do we construct knowledge in the natural sciences?	Definition of natural sciences

			Looked at the nature of the scientific method
56-57	Natural Sciences		Read and discussed the article, <i>This is why you shouldn't believe that exciting new medical study</i> Took a short medical quiz about medical knowledge
58	Natural Sciences	How do we construct knowledge in the natural sciences?	Reading on vaccines and autism
59	Natural Sciences	How do we construct knowledge in the natural sciences?	Introduction to paradigms in natural sciences
60	Natural Sciences	How do we construct knowledge in the natural sciences? How does scientific knowledge progress?	Article: "Thomas Kuhn: the man who changed the way the world looked at science" Article: "Paradigm shift: How Galileo's spy glass upended science"

12th grade

Day Number	TOK Concepts	KQ	Content
1	Natural Sciences Certainty Bias	What is knowledge? How do we know?	Discussed the question of vaping and how safe it is, read article: <i>Teen in coma after developing vaping-related lung disease that's become an 'epidemic' in US</i>
2 and 3	Reason, Limitations	What are the limitations of our abilities to reason?	Looked at different examples of logical fallacies, worked worksheets
4	Ethics	How do different ways of knowing relate to each other?	Looked at different morally disgusting stories and evaluated how we know an action is ethical or not Reading from <i>The Righteous Mind</i>
5	Ethics, intuition, reason	How do we decide what is right?	Reading from the Righteous Mind, author's model of the mind as a Rider and an Elephant

6	Art	What is art? What kind of knowledge can art communicate?	Watched a clip about artist who brought glaciers to a climate summit, read an article
7-8	Natural Sciences and Religious Knowledge Systems	How do natural sciences and religious knowledge systems pursue knowledge differently?	Video on different scientific language Reading evolution and creationism
9-10	Natural Sciences	How do we construct knowledge in the natural sciences	Article about diet science and how scientists can be wrong despite using the scientific method.
11	Human Sciences	How do we construct knowledge in the human sciences? What are the limitations of this knowledge?	Marshmallow test, replication crisis