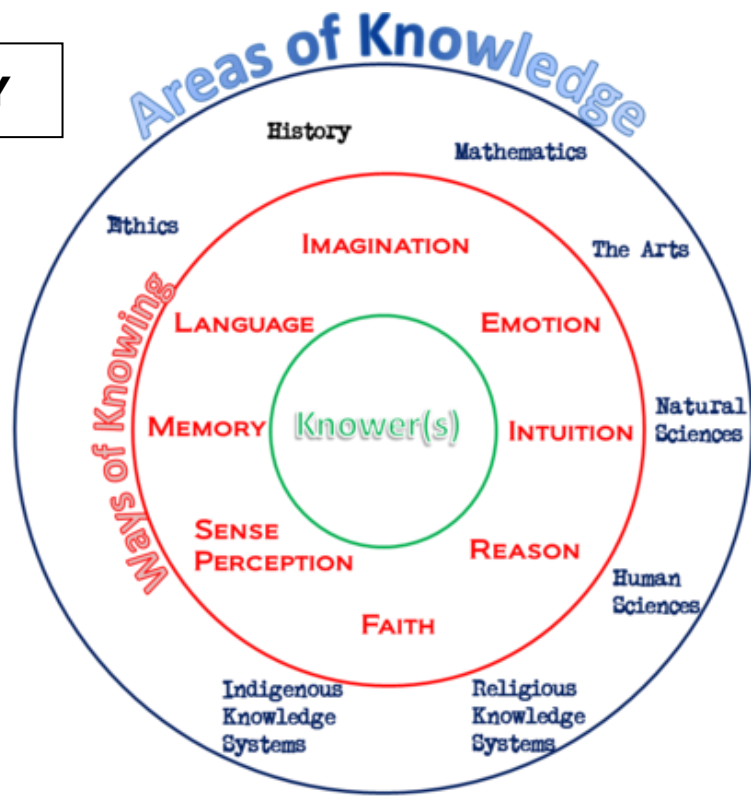


TOK VOCABULARY



Ways of knowing / Areas of knowledge
Knower / Knower's perspective / Knowers / Knowledge community
What is right and wrong: Ethics / What is true: Sciences / What is beautiful : Art
The scientific method / Hypothesis / Observation / Evidence / Theory / Truth
Knowledge claim / Counterclaim / Justification of a knowledge claim / Evidence
Belief / Certainty / Confirmation / Reliability / Reproducibility
Construction of knowledge within a knowledge community / Criteria for determining what constitutes <i>certain</i> knowledge in a knowledge community / General agreement (about what is <i>certain</i>) within a knowledge community
Objectivity / Subjectivity / Bias / Intuition
Hasty generalizations / Logical fallacies / Logical arguments / Validity / Soundness
Correlation / Causation
Background knowledge / Assumptions / Hidden Assumptions / Implications / Prejudices / Connotation / Stereotypes / Confirmation bias / Selective perception
Inductive reasoning / Deductive reasoning
Knowledge by authority / Social conventions / Common sense / Cultural conventions / Implicit knowledge / Explicit knowledge / Conventions within a given knowledge community (field)/ True Knowledge
Personal experience / Culture / Values / Background / Interpretation / Habits of thinking / Conformism / Non-conformism
Science / Pseudoscience
Creative thinking / Critical thinking / Critiquing for the sake of critiquing
Referring to expert opinion / Knowledge by authority / Primary (direct) knowledge / Second hand knowledge
Relativism / Cynicism / Skepticism / Absolutism

TOK ESSAY TIPS FOR PARAGRAPH AND PAPER STRUCTURE

A STRUCTURED PLAN

Don't start writing (or rewriting) your essay until you have a **structured plan**. This **plan** should include the **overall summary of your answer** to the essay title and the **supporting points** that you are going to be making in your essay.

All your **supporting points** should treat in a very direct and intentional way, **knowledge questions(s)** relevant to the **prescribed essay title** you have chosen.

It is preferable that these **supporting points** use the language of the **essay title** whenever possible. Don't be afraid to repeat the words in the **essay title**; in fact, it's better that you use these words again and again in order to remind the reader that you are on topic.

THE INTRODUCTION

Your **introduction** presents the **overall summary of your answer** to the essay title and a summary of the **supporting points** you are going to be making (in a thesis statement.)

THE MAIN BODY OF THE ESSAY

In the **body** of your essay, each **paragraph** begins with one of your **supporting points** (a topic sentence).

Next, **explain** this **supporting point** (by clarifying your ideas).

Then, include at least one **example** that backs up your **supporting point** [ie evidence] (usually this is something you've learned through one of the disciplines you study).

Next, consider **counterclaims**. (Are there assumptions within, implications of, or other perspectives about your **supporting point** which you can consider?)

If you considered a counterclaim, **respond** to it. The most useful counterclaims are not the kind that can be summarily rejected but those which will lead you to revise and qualify your **supporting point**.

Finally, **end** each paragraph with a closing sentence that refers to your **supporting point** and **explains/elaborates** how your **supporting point** relates to the **overall summary of your answer**. This helps remind your reader that you are on topic.

THE CONCLUSION

In the **conclusion** of your essay, repeat your **overall answer to the essay title**, summarize your **supporting points** and finish the essay by exploring the **implications** of your arguments in a broad way. Make sure that the language of the essay title is important part of your conclusion.

GENERAL TOK ESSAY WRITING TIPS

AVOID stating the obvious, making huge unjustified generalisations and repeating points.

Find a balance between original contributions from your own experience and knowledge gleaned from academic disciplines. Most of your supporting points should be drawing from the latter.

If you are dealing with an area of knowledge that you need help with, talk to the teachers in the appropriate subject. ToK is meant to be cross disciplinary.

Review basic essay writing skills. If you need help with this, ask a fellow student or your ToK teacher.