

TOK Essay

Sample

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TOPIC:

Do you agree that it is
“astonishing that so little
knowledge can give us so
much power” (Bertrand
Russell)?

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TOK Essay

Topic: "Do you agree that it is "astonishing that so little knowledge can give us so much power" (Bertrand Russell)? Discuss with reference to the natural sciences and one other area of knowledge."

Knowledge and human beings have been inseparable since the inception of time. Without knowledge, man would not have survived the turbulent times. The knowledge helped human beings to rise as the most powerful creature on the face of the earth. It broadens not only the horizons of our learning experiences but also makes us powerful.

This viewpoint gives rise to our TOK title and a famous quote - astonishingly, so little knowledge can give us so much power. Before starting the analysis of the TOK title, it is crucial to develop an understanding of what power means in the knowledge acquisition process. If a person possesses the education and the ability to control his life by utilizing that education, then they may be said to have "knowledge is power." People who have completed their education can better deal with life's challenges. Knowledge is the most potent instrument for bestowing power upon the people, and knowledge is invincible in the face of any other force on this planet. A person who battles for his rights and competes with the world will need all the power they can get, and education is the key to that power.

The distinction between a man and an animal has been made through knowledge acquisition. People can't be compared to animals in terms of their physical strength. Still, historically speaking, humans have been the most powerful creatures on earth simply due to the power that comes with knowing. Compared to animals, human beings have less physical strength than other species. Knowledge is the source of human beings' power; they are not dependent on their physical prowess. Because of their intelligence, research capabilities, and ability to experiment, humans are considered among the most intelligent and wise creatures that inhabit the earth.

To study the TOK title in greater detail, the essay will examine two areas of knowledge: natural science and art.

There is a common claim in natural science that rationality is a means of power in natural science. Without rational explanation and concrete evidence, a knowledge piece is not robust and won't be much beneficial for us. For example, take the example of the flat world theory. Despite this, a fringe group established in the 1950s and is committed to asserting that the Earth is flat has given rise to a current generation of supporters of the flat Earth theory. These people think that the Earth is a disc rather than a sphere, and they assert that any proof to the contrary, such as photographs obtained from space, is the result of an elaborate deception perpetrated by various countries.

Although the theory looked appealing it was not powerful enough because it had no concrete evidence and there was no proof of it being authentic. Hence, the scientists rejected it because

it did not make them feel powerful. A counterclaim also exists in natural science that concrete evidence is not always needed to make a knowledge piece powerful. Sometimes, the emotions associated with the knowledge piece also make it powerful.

Men who were enamored with the world were the driving force behind the early development of science. They could appreciate the majesty of the skies and the ocean, the majesty of the winds and the peaks. They focused their thoughts on them because they loved them and wanted a deeper understanding of them than was possible by simply observing their external characteristics. Hence, emotions attached to the knowledge piece may make it robust and worthy enough for human beings. For example, there are still a lot of people who believe that the flat earth theory is legit. Why? Because they feel an emotional connection with the theory, and this emotional connectivity helps them to be able to relate to the theory without any concrete evidence.

The second area of knowledge under discussion is art. There is a common claim in the art that the ability to gain information, to keep that knowledge safe, and to impart it to subsequent generations is what gives man his power. It grants him the ability to exert control over the elements of nature and work them to his advantage. If it is put to good use, the power of knowledge has the potential to make people happier. Acquiring new information is the first step in developing knowledge, respect, and power.

A counterclaim also exists in art, which states that the possession of knowledge does not necessarily confer power. The condition of being aware, comprehending, or having learned precise information about something, knowledge is something that either experience or study may acquire. This indicates that a person possesses the resources necessary to convey his opinions dynamically and to make wise judgments based on his day-to-day experiences, level of awareness, and level of comprehension. This does not make a man strong in any way. When a guy can effectively mobilize others by applying his knowledge, we say he possesses power. When a guy can put his knowledge into action or performance effectively and efficiently, he possesses the power.

For example, take the example of abstract art. Here, there is no data and rationalism involved, and the artist will feel powerful because the knowledge he is putting on canvas brings many people to his artwork. It is safe to say that the dominant way of knowing in art is creativity which helps the knower to gain all the essential pieces of information.

People can learn how to exert influence over the forces of nature and use those forces to their advantage when they have sufficient knowledge. Acquiring new information is an essential component of living a fulfilling life. Because of our knowledge, we can distinguish between what is right and wrong, as well as what is good and what is evil. More knowledge enables us to better prepare for the future and guides us toward the best options. It teaches us how to meet the challenges that life throws at us with self-assurance and a sense of command as quickly as possible, as well as how to overcome our shortcomings and inadequacies.

The acquisition of knowledge elevates a person's strength by facilitating their intellectual and moral development throughout life. Acquiring new information is one of the most crucial tools for effecting constructive social and national change. One may say that knowledge is the cornerstone of both prosperity and contentment. Therefore, we ought to educate ourselves, conduct ourselves honestly in our labors, and guard our community against the presence of evil. In a nutshell, knowledge maintains peace in the community by preventing individuals from engaging in violent conflict and other forms of socially destructive behavior.

Things aren't the same as they were back then at all. We are currently living in the heyday of the media industry. The ways in which we obtain information have been fundamentally altered by the proliferation of the internet and social media. Anyone who has an interest in acquiring it can do so without difficulty. Most individuals living in industrialized nations today have easy access to many forms of knowledge. What was formerly restricted to a select few is now available to the populace. In this day and age, being mentioned in Who's Who is not a prerequisite for awareness of current events.

Now, if only knowledge could instantaneously transfer into power, then all of us would be superheroes. We would have achieved greatness and power in a brief period. If educators and teachers ruled the world, they would be the most powerful and wealthy individuals on the earth. However, we are all aware that this is not the case. What you do with your knowledge is the most critical factor in determining your power level. If you don't put your newfound knowledge into practice, it will only sit there as a reservoir of unrealized potential. Imagine being at a petrol station, sitting in your car, and seeing that your tank is empty. You currently have all you need to solve the problem you're facing in your hands. Filling up is all that is required of you before you can continue on your journey. However, even though the gasoline is readily available to you, it will be useless until you exit the vehicle and begin taking action. As a result, it has not been fully exploited.