


Constructivism and TOK (Theory Of Knowledge)

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Japan 2022



Constructivism is a theory that explains how we learn and create knowledge by interpreting our experiences to construct meaning

TOK investigates how we interpret our experiences to construct meaning and create knowledge

TOK asks:

1. What do you/we know?
2. How do you/we know it?
3. Why does it matter?

Q1. What do you/we know? I know:

- that I dislike almonds, silk is soft, the sky is blue
- that nightmares are terrifying
- that water consists of hydrogen and oxygen atoms
- that stealing is wrong
- that wearing outdoor shoes indoors, is not done in Japan
- how to swim

Q2. How do I know?
Ans:
Ways of Knowing (WOKs)

- that I dislike almonds, silk is soft, the sky is blue
- Senses: taste, touch, sight
- that nightmares are terrifying
- Imagination & emotion (terror)
- that water consists of hydrogen & oxygen atoms
- Scientific rational thought and empirical evidence
- that stealing is wrong
- Ethical values and conscience
- that wearing outdoor shoes indoors is not done in Japan
- Cultural transmission and habit
- how to swim
- Practice

Activity: 15 minutes

- Write down 6 things that you know
- Think about the ways of knowing for each one of them. They may be different to the ones I used
- Share your outcomes with your group if you can

Q3 Why does what you/we know matter?
Ans: Because it impacts our actions

AN EXAMPLE

- Suppose that I know it is February 14th, St. Valentine's day...
(cognition as a WOK)
- ...and that I know that I am in love....
(Emotion as a WOK)

- **I LOVE YOU WITH ALL MY HEART**
- **YOU ARE MY SWEETHEART**
- **DON'T BREAK MY HEART**

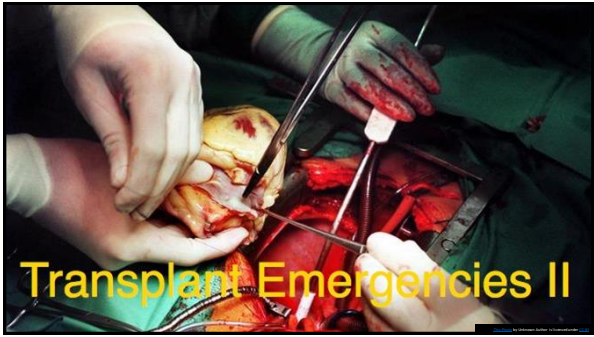
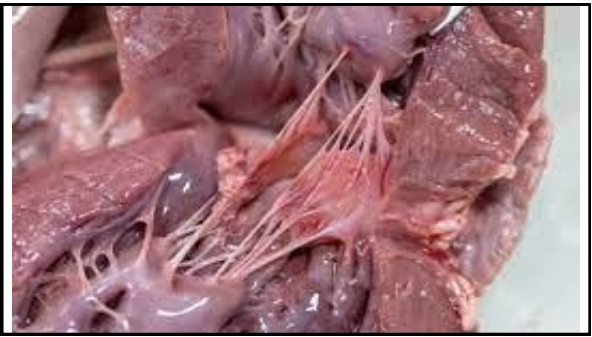
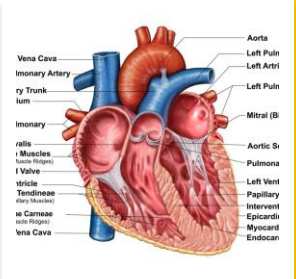
True love is the love that exceeds the boundaries of your heart and spills onto your soul.




Happy Valentine's Day

The heart

The heart is a muscular organ about the size of a fist, located just behind and slightly left of the breastbone. The heart pumps blood through the network of arteries and veins called the cardiovascular system



Non-TOK Questions

- Have you ever eaten raw heart?
- Would you like to?
- Do you know anyone who has?



HEART

Actually, the Oxford English Dictionary has an entry of 15,000 words related to the meaning of the word heart, most of which are about its use as a metaphor for emotional states, but also other meanings such as the centre of places and things or the central point in an argument

IN SUMMARY

- Constructing knowledge is complex and involves many ways of knowing
- Language is especially complicated and important in knowledge construction
- Because what we know impacts what we do we should pay careful attention to how we have come to know what we say we know

Activity 2: If you can, discuss your ideas with others

Recently, we have all been impacted by the covid pandemic. Think about the different ways of knowing (WOKs) that are being used to construct knowledge about covid.

Question prompts:

What WOKs are used to present knowledge about covid on the news and social media?

What WOKs are informing anti-vaccine protestors?

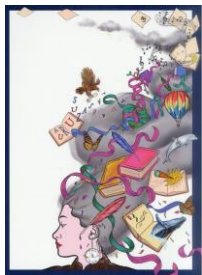
What WOKs inform people that they might be covid sufferers ?

What WOKs are informing your actions in the covid crisis?

Are any WOKs more important than others?

Activity 3: If you can, discuss your ideas with others

The climate crisis is also impacting us all. What ways of knowing are you using to construct knowledge to guide your behaviour in response to this crisis?



Thank you for your attention!

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