

# Theory of Knowledge

“How do we know what we know?”



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TOK is part of the IB Core; also included are:  
CAS (*creativity/activity/service*)  
& the Extended Essay.

TOK features two assessments:  
The TOK Exhibition (moderated IA; 33%; this year)  
& the TOK Essay (67%; next year).

The TOK course grade and the EE can earn you up to 3  
points toward the IB Diploma  
(24 points required, 12 in HL)

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# Elements of TOK

- The Core Theme: Knowledge & the Knower
- Optional Themes: Knowledge & Language; Knowledge & Politics
- Areas of Knowledge: The Arts, History, Mathematics, Natural & Human Sciences
  
- The Knowledge Framework: Scope, Perspectives, Methods and Tools, & Ethics
- Knowledge Questions (Ex: “If moral claims conflict, are all views acceptable?”)
- 12 Concepts:

*evidence, certainty, truth, interpretation, power, justification, explanation, objectivity, perspective, culture, values and responsibility*

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TOK is a course about *knowledge*—what it is, how we acquire it, and how we may responsibly evaluate knowledge claims. TOK is not an academic subject, but rather it is an approach to learning that undergirds all subjects.

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## Etc.

- TOK is not on Canvas or the PowerSchool Grade Book but you will get a grade for your high school transcript each year (Note: TOK is considered Honors level credit.)
  - Your grade in the Junior year is based on your homework average (50%) and the TOK Exhibition (50%).
  - (In the Senior year, your grade is based equally on the TOK Essay and the Extended Essay; while we spend much of the class time working on our writing, there *are* lessons, specifically on the five AOKs.)
  - Your homework will be an assignment given in class (usually written), due the following week. No worries: if you do the homework you should have a 100 average going into the Exhibition. Even so, take it seriously or you will come to grief.
  - One non-negotiable rule is that we interact respectfully with each other. We are all learners, we all have biases, we have had varying experiences in our lives, and we deserve the respect of our peers, even in disagreement. Some of us may change a lot during our discussions, others not. But all of us should have our perspectives widened by others' points of view.
  - Write stuff down!
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ASSIGNMENT FOR NEXT WEEK:

## Nature or Nurture?

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Is a human being a product primarily of genetics or environment? Use yourself as evidence to support your claim. You *do* know who you are, right?

One page–minimum.