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# TOK Essay Sample

**TOPIC:**

OTHERS HAVE SEEN WHAT IS AND  
ASKED WHY. I HAVE SEEN WHAT  
COULD BE AND ASKED WHY NOT.

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**Topic: “Others have seen what is and asked why. I have seen what could be and asked why not.”**

Knowledge is the in depth information of different things in life that human beings seek to gather from the day that they are born to the day that they die. It is a gradual process that happens over time. Human beings, since the beginning of times have resorted to different methods of gaining knowledge. These include by way of learning through books, having teachers teach them and also through life long experiences over time. It is knowledge that is the one main differentiating factors between human beings and animals, since knowledge makes it possible for human beings to think rationally and take the right decisions, based on facts and figures.

Before I begin my essay, I will shed light on the key terms of this title, which are ‘why’, and ‘why not.’ It is integral to differentiate these two so I can better be able to explain my point of view. In this essay, what I will be focusing on mainly is what we already know than on what we do not know. The key knowledge question that I will be looking to answer by way of this is how does the knowledge of the unseen differ from the knowledge of the seen? Human beings are by nature very curious. They always want to find out reasons behind things so that they can satisfy their thirst for always wanting more. That is exactly what I will be discussing in this essay.

The two areas of knowledge that I will be focusing on are natural sciences and art. As part of the natural sciences, the example that I will use to prove my point is firstly how Newton discovered gravity and how that relates to our topic. A counterclaim too

this can be seen in Benjamin Franklin's discovery of gravity. As a conclusive statement, I will be arguing about how all major discoveries have always been made by thinking out of the box. When we already are aware of something, we don't really make an effort to further probe into the details of that. But when we are unaware of how something is happening, then we continue to explore more reasons about it and that is what leads us human being to making discoveries that actually matter. The way of knowing that I used for this is reasoning. It helped me connect the dots and make a sound argument.

Religious knowledge systems is the second area of knowledge. Here I will be focusing on how human beings have to resort to believing in the unseen, no matter what religion they belong to. It is this belief that is the core of this existence. Despite the fact that they cannot see their god physically, they choose to believe in him and that is what eventually keeps them going. A counterclaim to this can be seen in the fact that there are atheists as well in the world. These are the people who cannot come to terms with the fact that they are worshipping a being who has no real proof in physical terms. I will be making a clear distinction here between the seen and the unseen. The way of knowing here will be sense perception.

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