

Summer Reading Assignment: TOK Ms. Holzinger

*This assignment is for rising seniors (class of 2019).

Please purchase the book *You Are Not So Smart: Why You Have Too Many Friends on Facebook, Why Your Memory Is Mostly Fiction, and 46 Other Ways You're Deluding Yourself* by David McRaney. ISBN: 978-1-592-40736-1

This book gives an overview of several different biases and fallacies, providing a good foundation for understanding how we form knowledge, and giving tools for evaluating our own and others' ideas, opinions, beliefs, and knowledge.

You can purchase a new or used hardcover or paperback, or get an e-reader edition. It costs around \$10 new on Amazon. If you cannot purchase the book due to financial hardship, please see me (room B-208) by May 26th.

The assignment:

Part I: Read the introduction and the assigned chapters (listed below).

Part II: Using 3 x 5 index cards, create flashcards for the 25 concepts (see below to find out which chapters are assigned). Your flash cards should have the word on one side and a comprehensive definition entirely in your own words (and maybe an example) on the back. Do not copy the definition from the book, online, or another person. Write your name on a blank index card and place it on top, then put a rubber band around your index cards so they can easily be handed in without any getting lost. The flashcards are due on the day of the test.

The following 25 chapters/concepts are assigned (including two concepts from the introduction):

Ch	Concept	Ch	Concept
Intro.	Cognitive biases	21	Subjective Validation
Intro.	Logical fallacies	23	Groupthink
3	Confirmation Bias	25	The Affect Heuristic
4	Hindsight Bias	28	Self-Serving Bias
5	The Texas Sharpshooter Fallacy	30	The Third Person Effect
9	The Availability Heuristic	32	The Misinformation Effect
11	The Dunning-Kruger Effect	38	Embodied Cognition
12	Apophenia	39	The Anchoring Effect
14	The Argument from Authority	40	Attention
15	The Argument from Ignorance	45	The Representative Heuristic
16	The Straw Man Fallacy	46	Expectation
17	The Ad Hominem Fallacy	47	The Illusion of Control
18	The Just-World Fallacy		

Part III: Written test. There will be a test on these 25 concepts during the first week of school. Make sure you understand the concepts well enough that you can recognize them even if I use a new example, define the term in my own words, or don't give a word bank.

*If you have any questions about this assignment, please see me in B-208, or email at erikakh@leeschools.net (please note: I do not check my school email regularly over the summer, so you may not get an immediate response).

***In case you want to do your school shopping early, here is a list of materials you will need for TOK next year (in addition to your summer reading book). Materials will be due the second week of school.

- Three-ring binder (1" or wider)
- 10 Dividers –I will tell you how to label them when school starts
- Pen (blue or black ink only)
- Pencil with eraser (for tests)
- White notebook paper
- Pack of 100 3x5 lined index cards (you'll use some of them for the summer assignment)
- If you are able, a box of Kleenex to donate to the class would be greatly appreciated!