

TOK Exhibition: 1st Practice: One Object, One Prompt, One Perspective

USE THE LANGUAGE OF TOK TO SHOW YOU ARE DOING TOK: Key Concepts, Knowledge Framework terms especially helpful.

Watch for your assumptions - Henry "only people who understand Chinese culture can make judgements" This has not been proven and is at the heart of his prompt.

If the prompt says OR you MUST pick ONE. Choun An - "production or acquisition" but he discusses both back and forth. Doesn't work.

Defining any key terms in your OWN WORDS is always a helpful idea.

Avoid absolutes - Dario "I only know and understand things the way I do...." ONLY? Incorrect.

You must use the words of the prompt AND the word knowledge REPEATEDLY to make sure you are meeting the DOTQ: Stefan - Bias x 1 and knowledge x 1....thats not enough.

You also MUST write OVER 300 words - one person only 220....you're never going to EXPLORE the perspective on the prompt fully in that short a word count.

You must move PAST the object, and its relationship to the prompt, into a discussion of the PERSPECTIVE that this particular object gives you on the prompt - Songju - Focus is too much on the trophy, and should be more about the relationship between evidence and any given community of knowers

You MUST give a STRONG AND CLEAR justification for why THIS object is included. To do this use the phrase "The inclusion of this object in my exhibition is strongly justified because....." And then state the perspective that this object allows you to explore in relation to the prompt.

You MUST use some form of the word JUSTIFY to do this properly; there is no way (or need) to avoid using it! Aileen - "The painting is interesting for the exhibition...."

The link between the object and KNOWLEDGE must be clearly stated: Virakyuth - "The intimate connections between those directly involved could make certain knowledge...". What that knowledge could be is not clear at all to the reader, and so the link to the prompt is weak.

Your points must be supported by logic/reason and/or evidence: just saying something does NOT make an argument! Aileen - "Art requires bias from the knower to produce any knowledge....." Says who?

A clear, large, color picture of the EXACT object is a REQUIREMENT - At least one of you didn't turn one in. If it can't be photographed, then it is NOT acceptable.

Make sure you move quickly from the particular circumstances of the relationship between your prompt and the object, to the GENERAL application of the PRINCIPLE: Kiara - "...my father has increased the extent that certainty is attainable as it comes from what he considers a trusted source...". This is towards the end of her commentary, but at this point the discussion should be focusing on sources of knowledge IN GENERAL and their importance is attaining certainty, NOT about the jeweler as the source in this case. Sen - "Linking back to the prompt this displays certainty is highly attainable because it's certain that the dice roll would be a number between 1 and 6 only" at this point (last sentence) the emphasis needs to have moved past the object (a die) to the relationship between knowledge and certainty in situations of very specific circumstances.

Be sure your word choice is the best it can be: KK - "All of the Cambodian people know...." The prompt involves the term "community of knowers" but it hasn't been established that the Cambodian people are a community of knowers, so this is not properly aligned. Who are "the Cambodian people"? And why should they be considered a community of knowers?

The perspective that this object allows you to explore on the prompt MUST BE CLEAR!! To do that use the phrase “This object will allow me to explore the perspective that.....”. And then choose whichever perspective best fits the object.

“Strength” in TOK is not the goal; open-mindedness, being able to access a different perspective, being OK with uncertainty is much more worthwhile. Your unsupported OPINION is not valid. Sorry. Various!

Be absolutely clear about the terms in the prompt and the words you choose to use: Halen - “One context in which this object is provided is the context of ethics.....” Unfortunately, the context is STARBUCKS, a highly popular WESTERN company, does the fact that the context is western in a SE Asia country make the use of a paper straw more appealing?

We are only interested in HUMAN knowledge, not animals, machines, nature or anything else. Any object that does not relate to human knowledge will be doomed to failure. One of you did this.

Your object should be utilized to explore ONLY ONE perspective on the object; Yubin - “Dreamcatcher has meaning inside the object that certain communities believe in.” but she also said “Knowledge of the dream catcher belongs not only to particular communities of knowers”. One object can’t allow for a discussion of TWO perspectives.

Check your work with peers and friends, and check theirs as well! This will ensure you catch any serious flaws in your logic. Your arguments must be flawless.

Choose your words VERY wisely; all must communicate exactly what you really think and mean to say.

The object is NOT the knowledge! This is a common mistake. It can communicate knowledge, represent knowledge, imply knowledge, share knowledge etc. But it is CONCRETE and knowledge is ABSTRACT. A calculator is NOT knowledge of maths, for instance. An object for organizing paper is not the same as organizing KNOWLEDGE!

Stick to THIS object, don’t start talking about related objects. Remember, this is about KNOWLEDGE and the only point of the object is to GET TO A DISCUSSION ABOUT KNOWLEDGE. If you are still mentioning your object after 100 or so words, you are not achieving at the highest levels. Move from the concrete —> abstract

Do NOT use the terms “Ways of Knowing” or WOK anymore - that is not part of the course vocabulary anymore.

Again, make sure you are exploring a specific perspective. What this is will vary from prompt to prompt but mostly falls into the “yes it is....” “no it isn’t....” and “sometimes it is and sometimes it isn’t....” categories. Most of you can use phrases such as these as a mini-conclusion to draw your commentary to a close effectively.

Do NOT substitute one term for a similar term that is in the prompt. The IB hates this. Sooin - “...this tool with creativity...” but the term in the IA prompt is imagination...they are not the same. Cade - “However, as it is impossible to fully experience another’s experiences, one would have absolutely no idea if the artist’s emotions were what the painting conveyed.” Experiences are not knowledge, and the prompt is about “things being unknowable”. Sak - “ My figurine shows that bias is inevitable in the production of knowledge because when producing the belief on whether I believe the figurine to be cool or not, bias shows itself.” Tana - “ It shows the importance of our environment in influencing our beliefs” but the prompt is about knowledge and culture! Simply use the exact term from the prompt, over and over, to avoid this problem.

Proofread your own work REPEATEDLY. Reading it aloud to yourself (record yourself and listen back) or to a friend is a GREAT idea. Does it make sense? Are you saying what you really meant to say? Its 315 words and every. Single. One. Counts.

The picture must be of a SPECIFIC REAL WORLD OBJECT; no generic photos. You shouldn’t use a picture of A protractor, but it MUST BE a specific one that exists in a specific place in the world.

Don’t repeat yourself: the same argument, phrasing, point WILL be noticed! We read these things. You can be CERTAIN of that!