**Theory of Knowledge Essay Outline For Mr. Ferlazzo's Class**

A few things to keep in mind before using this outline:

\* This is a guide -- you do not necessarily have to follow it point by point. You do, however, need to ensure that these points are all covered somewhere in the essay.

\* Be careful about making blanket statements — everything, always, etc.

\* You do not have to have an answer for everything. If you have questions you are pondering, then say so.

\* Periodically look back to the sample essays for reminders of things that worked and things that did not.

\* Make sure everything you write is directly responding to the TOK prompt. If it says “consider CAS,” then discuss CAS. If it says “one more Area of Knowledge,” then discuss another Area of Knowledge in additions to one. Connect the topic sentence of each paragraph to your thesis statement/claim as well as the last sentence.

\* You might find it useful to first think which Areas of Knowledge you are going to write about, then think of examples in those Areas that illustrate your points, and then consider which Ways of Knowing were used to learn those specific AOK examples.

\* Don’t just give examples — tell stories with a beginning, middle and end.

**1. Copy the prompt you are using:**

1. Prompt: “The possession of knowledge carries an ethical responsibility.” Evaluate this claim.

**2. First Paragraph:**

\* Define key words and concepts said in the prompt -- for example, what is knowledge? What is faith?

1. Knowledge [According to IB]: \*NO REAL DEFINITION\*, but “Knowledge can be viewed as the production of one or more human beings.”
2. Ethics [According to IB]: “Ethics means the same as ‘moral philosophy’, or, the study of how to live our lives morally.” “Plural noun 1 the moral principles governing or influencing conduct. 2 the branch of knowledge concerned with moral principles.” “In other words, ethics does not mean the same as morals, it is the study of morals.”
3. Possession [General Definition]: “The state of having, owning, or controlling something.”
4. Moral [General Definition]: “A person's standards of behavior or beliefs concerning what is and is not acceptable for them to do.”
5. Memory [According to IB]: “Many discussions of knowledge tend to focus on how beliefs and knowledge are formed rather than on how they are remembered by the individual.” “In contrast to perception, memory refers to things which are not currently happening.” “Some would argue that memory is not itself a source of knowledge, but instead is a process which we use to recall knowledge gained in the past. However, although memory refers to knowledge gained in the past, it can be argued that even new knowledge is dependent on and influenced by memory.”
6. Reason [According to IB]: “Reason allows us to go beyond the immediate experience of our senses.”
7. Perception [According to IB]: “Sense perception is the process by which we can gain knowledge about the outside world. Traditionally, there were believed to be five senses: sight, touch, smell, taste and hearing.

\* In your thesis statement, rewrite the prompt in your own words and take a stand -- what do you think and why?

I believe that the statement “the possession of knowledge carries an ethical responsibility” means that you have a moral duty to preserve the knowledge in its absolute form without causing uncertainties or creating falsified information.

**3. Next Three Paragraphs (note, you should cover at least three Ways of Knowing, unless the prompt specifically mentions fewer):**

\* What is the Way of Knowing you will be exploring (Reason, Emotion, Perception, Language, Intuition, Memory, Imagination, Faith)?

1. First Paragraph: Perception
2. Second Paragraph: Reason
3. Third Paragraph: Memory

\* What is your topic sentence and how does it connect to your thesis statement/claim?

1. First Paragraph: One of the ways we are able to fulfill our moral duty to preserve the state of which knowledge is in is perception, for perception allows us to have different perspectives.

Connection: This connects to my thesis statement because it un-covers what our moral responsibility is through the usage of perception, which is another way of knowing.

1. Second Paragraph: Although perception may help us view different aspects our moral responsibility, reason helps establish a better moral understanding of the responsibility that we have.

Connection: This connects to my thesis statement because it will further discuss the moral aspect of the responsibility that we have.

1. Third Paragraph: Besides perception and memory, another way we are able to fulfill our moral duty to preserve the state of knowledge and help us decipher what is falsified information, is through memory.

Connection: This connects to my thesis statement because it discusses how we can preserve the state that knowledge is in, and how a Way of Knowing can help us determine which aspects of knowledge are falsified and which are in its absolute form.

\* What are the TOK concepts that you have learned through the textbook and through class discussion that you will be referring to in order to support your claim related to this Way of Knowing?

1. First Paragraph: Perceptual illusions, expectations, seeing and believing.
2. Second Paragraph: Inductive reasoning, loaded questions, fallacies.
3. Third Paragraph: Reliability of memory, Memory changing overtime, Things we tend to remember and “forget”/forget.

\* What are the stories from the TOK textbook and from your other knowledge (including personal examples) that you will be using to support that claim? (NOTE: THIS MIGHT BE A SEPARATE PARAGRAPH)

1. First Paragraph: Young woman-old woman allusion picture, diagram “Paris in the the spring”, Art concept.
2. Second Paragraph: Hasty generalizations, loaded questions.
3. Third Paragraph: Dropping my wallet [2 similar guys wearing the same attire] video shown in class, statistics on memory

\* What is at least counter-claim? In other words, what might others who would not necessarily agree with you say? What would your response to them be? (NOTE: THIS MIGHT BE A SEPARATE PARAGRAPH)

Counterclaim: Since we have different morals, good and bad, it is nearly impossible to determine exactly what our moral responsibility is in terms of possessing knowledge.

Response: Regardless of the state your morals are in, you still have a moral duty when you possess knowledge. You just need to factor out the good and bad to determine which morals you should follow.

\* How have you connected your last sentence to your thesis statement/claim?

General last sentence fill in [By be subjected to change]:

Therefore this Way of Knowing, [Insert WOK] helps extinguish [Purpose of the paragraph].

**4. Following Three Paragraphs** **(note, you should cover at least three Areas of Knowledge, unless the prompt specifically mentions fewer) IMPORTANT -- Instead of making these into separate paragraphs, you may, instead, use AOK stories to support your claims in prior paragraphs to illustrate your points about different Ways Of Knowing:**

\* What is the first Area of Knowledge you will be exploring (Math, History, Arts, Human Sciences, Natural Sciences, Ethics, Religious Knowledge Systems, Indigenous Knowledge Systems)

Note: These Area of Knowledge paragraphs will go in-between the Way of Knowing paragraphs. There is no exact order as of right now. General Order:

1. First Paragraph: Human Sciences
2. Second Paragraph: Ethics
3. Third Paragraph: History

\* What is your topic sentence and how does it connect to your thesis statement/claim?

1. First Paragraph: With Human Sciences, we are able to evaluate our moral responsibility that knowledge brings, and make sense of all its aspects.

Connection: This connects to my thesis statement because it helps to further decipher the aspects that create the moral responsibility that knowledge brings.

1. Second Paragraph: When we apply Ethics while evaluating the claim, we are able to grasp the moral concept of our responsibility that knowledge carries.

Connection: This connects to my thesis statement because it discusses the moral aspect of the responsibility that we have in relation to knowledge.

1. Third Paragraph: Our next area of knowledge that will help us evaluate this claim is History, which will allow us to see the importance of keeping this moral responsibility.

Connection: This connects to my thesis statement because it will discuss which aspects are important when keeping the moral responsibility that knowledge possess.

\*What are the TOK concepts that you have learned through the textbook and through class discussion that you will be referring to in order to support your claim related to this Area of Knowledge?

1. First Paragraph: The Observer Effect, Predictions
2. Second Paragraph: Moral Principle, Moral Relativism, Self-Interest Theory.
3. Third Paragraph: Evidence, Significance

\* What are the stories from the TOK textbook and from your other knowledge (including personal examples) that you will be using to support that claim? (NOTE: THIS MIGHT BE A SEPARATE PARAGRAPH)

1. First Paragraph: Mirror ex. In the TOK textbook, Lab experiment ex., Handpick items from a bag
2. Second Paragraph: Short story ex. Cheating is bad in the TOK textbook, The society we grow up in ex
3. Third Paragraph: Toilet seat interpretation [Various unknown items in a foreign country, interpret the items in a different way, new use of the various object

\* What is at least counter-claim? In other words, what might others who would not necessarily agree with you say? What would your response to them be? (NOTE: THIS MIGHT BE A SEPARATE PARAGRAPH)

Counterclaim: Even though knowledge may have a moral responsibility, we are not obligated to with-hold it.

Response: Yes, even though we are not obligated to with-hold the moral responsibility, in a broader way of thinking, knowledge is the key to the future. Therefore when the key to the future is in your hands, you do have a moral responsibility, for you want the world to succeed and improve as a civilization as a whole.

\* How have you connected your last sentence to your thesis statement/claim?

General last sentence fill-in [Subjected to change]:

Therefore with the usage of [AOK], we are able to [Insert the purpose of the paragraph].

**5. Conclusion:**

How can you summarize your answer to the TOK writing prompt?

Conclusion starter sentence:

I believe that the claim “the possession of knowledge carries an ethical responsibility” means that you have a moral duty to preserve the knowledge in its absolute form without causing uncertainties or creating falsified information.

Justifying my answer to the TOK writing prompt:

Way of knowing paragraphs:

1. Perception allows us to have different perspectives.
2. Reason helps establish a better moral understanding of the responsibility that we have.
3. Memory helps us decipher what is falsified information.

Area of knowledge paragraphs:

1. With Human Sciences, we are able to evaluate our moral responsibility that knowledge brings, and make sense of all its aspects.
2. When we apply Ethics while evaluating the claim, we are able to grasp the moral concept of our responsibility that knowledge carries.
3. History, which will allow us to see the importance of keeping this moral responsibility.

\*CITATIONS USED WHEN GATHERING INFORMATION\*

1. "Knowledge in TOK." IB Diploma Programme. © International Baccalaureate Organization. Web. 6 May 2015.
2. "Ethics." Theoryofknowledge.net. © Theoryofknowledge.net. Web. 6 May 2015.
3. "Ways of Knowing." IB Diploma Programme. © International Baccalaureate Organization. Web. 7 May 2015.