

Student Name

Professor

Course

Date

What Counts as Knowledge?

I used "**What counts as knowledge?**" as my ToK prompt. I will use knowledge and the knower as my core theme, but consider how knowledge and politics influence people to accept specific ideas and reject others. People's acceptance of knowledge determines the ideas that count as knowledge because the rejected ideas do not add value to the connected communities.

Object 1: Image of Donald Trump and Joe Biden



Source: (Simmons-Duffins)

NPR used this image in 2020 to compare the differing visions for healthcare in the U.S. The defining issue at the time was healthcare because the high contagious COVID-19 had highlighted the health policy issues in the country (Simmons-Duffins). People realized that with the onset of the disease, people were facing a predicament between thinking about the

significance of health insurance or losing a job that guaranteed health insurance. The pandemic and health policy were intertwined.

This object makes this exhibition interesting because it brings into question the place of politics in defining what counts as knowledge. The two individuals represent differing political factions in the U.S. Trump represents the Republicans while Biden represents the Democrats. Regarding the Affordable Care Act, Trump was pushing for repeal while Biden was pushing to expand on the program (Simmons-Duffins). These worldview disparities reveal what counts as knowledge for the Republicans against the Democrats. Trump referred to the ACA as a disaster and urged the Supreme Court to overturn the law, while Biden used legal and congressional support to defend the act.

Further, the policy implications associated with the two individuals reveal the aspects that remain dear to Republicans and Democrats. Trump's tenure saw premiums go down, and more plans became available (Simmons-Duffins). Biden supported the expansion of premium subsidies on the ACA exchanges to incorporate over 400% of the individuals at the federal poverty level. These worldview disparities reveal what counts as knowledge for the opposing factions because pro-Republican supporters prefer Trump's ideas while the pro-Democratic loyalists prefer Biden's propositions. These groups are less likely to identify with the ideas of the opposing candidate.

Object 2: Green is the New Black



Source: (Mau-Schank)

This object appears on the Forbes.com website, and Mau-Schank uses it to reveal why businesses are gradually incorporating sustainability into their activities. Mau-Schank indicates that sustainability has become a top priority for most people; sustainability has become so important that consumers are using it to make purchasing decisions. 63% of U.S. consumers consider a brand's promotion of sustainability integral to making purchasing decisions. These realities shape what counts as knowledge; ideally, people's acceptance of specific worldviews determines their propensity to consider specific ideas important.

This object is important for this exhibition because it reveals the importance of specific worldviews in motivating people to accept knowledge. For example, Millennials can influence industries due to their large numbers and preference for sustainability initiatives. Mau-Schank indicates that a brand's promotion of sustainability goes a long way toward determining customers' purchasing decisions. This reality establishes the place of knowledge acceptance in determining what counts as knowledge. People tend to accept the claims that resonate with their worldviews, which develops clearly as Mau-Schank reveals that most people in the U.S. believe that companies should develop programs that protect the environment. Sustainability counts as knowledge due to its centrality in driving customer trends and business practices.

The object further enriches this exhibition by revealing how knowledge drives people's purchasing behaviors. Mau-Schank indicates that when faced with a difficult purchasing decision, customers consider companies' sustainability efforts and marketing of these efforts before settling for a product. Therefore, the company's size does not matter; every business person and entrepreneur is presently endeavoring to become as transparent as possible in revealing their sustainability initiatives. Sustainability counts as knowledge because the present-day consumer is not simply looking at a specific product or service but the entire company.

Object 3: Meghan Markle and Prince Harry



Source: (McGahan)

This object appears on usmagazine.com, and McGahan uses it to reveal Prince Harry and Meghan Markle celebrating after the results of a bullying investigation against the Duchess of Sussex. Markle had been accused of bullying the people who worked for her at the palace to tears. However, Buckingham Palace concluded its investigations but refused not to make the investigations public. Nonetheless, Harry and Markle resolved to move on with their lives. The

findings of Buckingham Palace count as knowledge because the institution has a formidable reputation, and people are inclined to accept the knowledge it forwards.

This object makes this exhibition interesting because it reveals the significance of well-founded institutions in validating knowledge. Accusations against Markle surfaced in March 2021; she was accused of bullying Palace aides in 2018 to tears, and one of the aides left her position. Markle denied the claims, but people's suspicions were put to rest on June 29th, after Buckingham Palace concluded its investigations. The institution's reputation develops as one thinks the findings were never made public, but people still accepted the findings. These realities establish that the source of specific information plays an integral role in determining what counts as knowledge. Markle's character was only cleared after the palace announced that she was a fair boss and not a bully.

This object increases the value of this exhibition by revealing the significance of public support for a specific institution. The palace's influence derives from the rich history of the royal family as well as the support of the masses. Therefore, despite the drama that had bedeviled the Royal family for decades, the institution's investigations still counted as knowledge.

Works Cited

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