

Theory of Knowledge Exhibition

Prompt 31: How can we judge when evidence is adequate?

Object 1: Steph Curry's Bored Ape Yacht Club #7990

A non-fungible token (NFT) is a digital asset on an online blockchain platform that provides a certificate of ownership. The Bored Ape Yacht Club #7990 is an NFT from a collection of unique cartoon ape profile pictures and is one of the most expensive digital assets ever created. This object coming from cryptocurrency and investing, raises a question: is there adequate evidence to justify buying an NFT, and is it worthwhile?



A star basketball player, Steph Curry, spent \$180,000 (USD) on this NFT profile picture (Leung). Curry's purchase suggests that he gathered enough evidence to buy this expensive NFT for potential profit. Despite seeing a celebrity purchase this NFT, individuals do not have enough information to buy these assets and assume immediate profit. Due to Curry's wealthy and famed status as a professional athlete, he has a large amount of disposable income. However, the average person will not be able to recover from a financial loss that may incur as NFTs are highly volatile. Therefore, seeing a celebrity buying an NFT as evidence is inadequate for making a similar investment. As NFTs are relatively novel in today's economy, it is difficult to forecast if its price will skyrocket or crash over time. As such, even if a rich person makes an investment, it does not mean that others should use that as evidence to do the same.

It is natural for humans to blindly follow the actions of famous public figures as credible sources of guidance. The NFT is relevant to the prompt as it exemplifies the importance of being aware of the pros and cons of making judgements that can result in costly risks. One can gain this awareness by cautiously spending small portions of money to make investments or researching online if the evidence on buying something like NFTs is worthwhile. This NFT represents when to judge when evidence is adequate from a financial standpoint: individuals must explore evidence from multiple sources and perspectives, to avoid financial mistakes in their investments.

Object 2: The Piri Reis Map of 1513

The Piri Reis Map of 1513 is an ancient map depicting the western shores of Europe and Africa, the Atlantic Ocean and parts of North and South America. This map is drawn from the travels of Christopher Columbus and other early explorers from the fifteenth century (New World Cartographic). At the time, this map represented Europeans' understanding of navigation in the world. However, with new research



and evidence about mapping in the world, there are more practical and accurate maps, such as the AuthaGraph projection and Google Maps with satellite connections. This shows that even when we think there is an adequate amount of evidence to follow the directions of a map, our reliance can quickly change through continuous improvements in science and technology.

The values and belief systems of groups and individuals also influence how much they believe is adequate evidence. For instance, Flat-Earthers have a different lens on the shape of the earth, which contradicts the commonly held belief that the world is a globe. While a certain amount of evidence could initially seem adequate, that level of adequacy is constantly changing as shown throughout the centuries. As more evidence comes out about the measurements of the Earth, the accuracy of maps must be changed.

The Piri Reis Map is relevant as it represents how quickly knowledge can change over time. For instance, this map was considered one of the most accurate maps of the Columbus era. However, the majority of the world relies on Google Maps or a similar tool to get from place to place. This object also represents how adequate evidence is shaped by convenience and accessibility. It is often difficult to keep hand-held objects such as the Piri Reis Map, when we have phones that have access to an infinite amount of resources including Google Maps. Altogether this object justifies the importance of using evidence that is up-to-date and convenient to use in modern society.

Object 3: The Enriched Classic Book of *Oedipus the King*

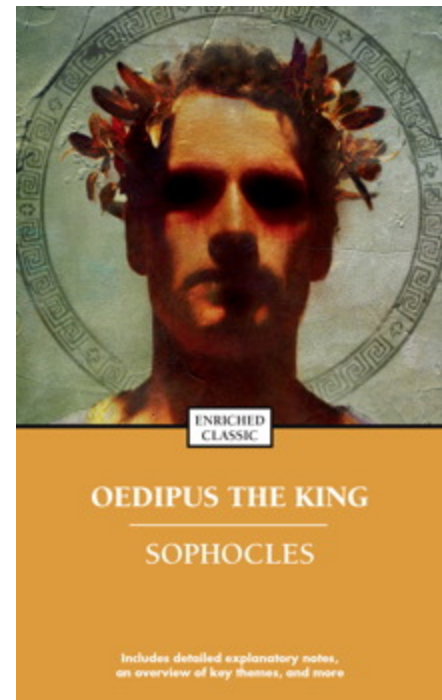
In Sophocles' play *Oedipus the King*, the protagonist, Oedipus Rex, unwittingly fulfills a prophecy of him killing his father and marrying his mother. Oedipus ignores many warnings from the blind prophet, Teiresias, until he realizes the vanity in the countless attempts to avoid his tragic fate. As represented, the future is uncertain, and although there is evidence that hints at what may happen, it is difficult to judge the adequacy of the information provided.

In the play, Oedipus is oblivious to the fact that one of the men he killed was his biological father, Laius, and Polybus, is his adoptive father. The story illustrates how knowledge can easily be misinterpreted as evidence can be misleading, which affects decision-making. Oedipus' judgement is influenced by incomplete evidence. Because he does not know he is adopted, he makes a fatal error. This shows that we can never trust that evidence is truly adequate from one perspective.

The circumstances in *Oedipus the King* provide a representation that evidence has its limitations and does not often reveal all sides of the story. If we impulsively act on the evidence we receive, it can lead to flawed judgements and detrimental consequences.

This object demonstrates that individuals have to consider evidence from all perspectives, before deciding to act in case of consequences. In Oedipus' case, his failure to understand the other side of the evidence of Polybus' death leads to physical and mental turmoil as he blinds himself. Therefore, this book significantly illustrates that in spite of being provided evidence that may contradict one's beliefs and desires, it is vital to be humble to others' opinions. This portrays the importance of accepting the limitations of one's knowledge in order to be open-minded to more perspectives to help judge the adequacy of evidence.

Word Count: 950



Works Cited

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