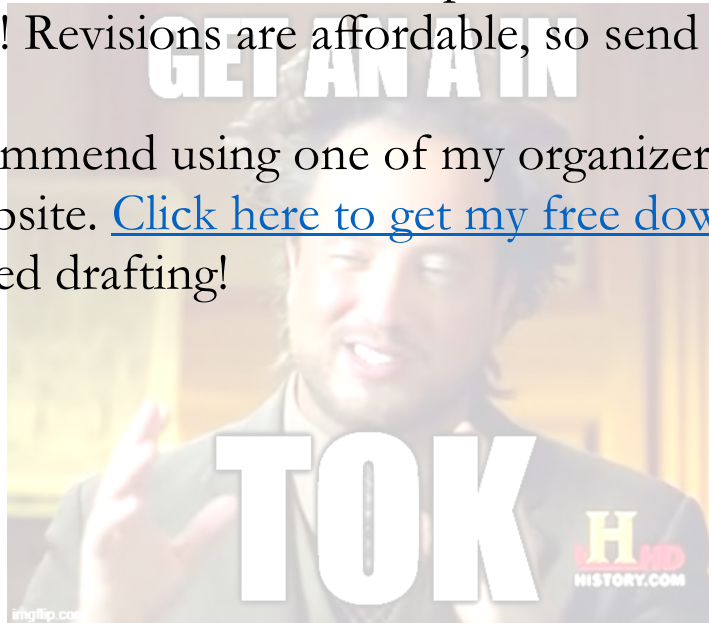


Get an A in TOK Essay Guide

Thanks for downloading this guide – I hope it helps you get an A. Or a B. But really an A.

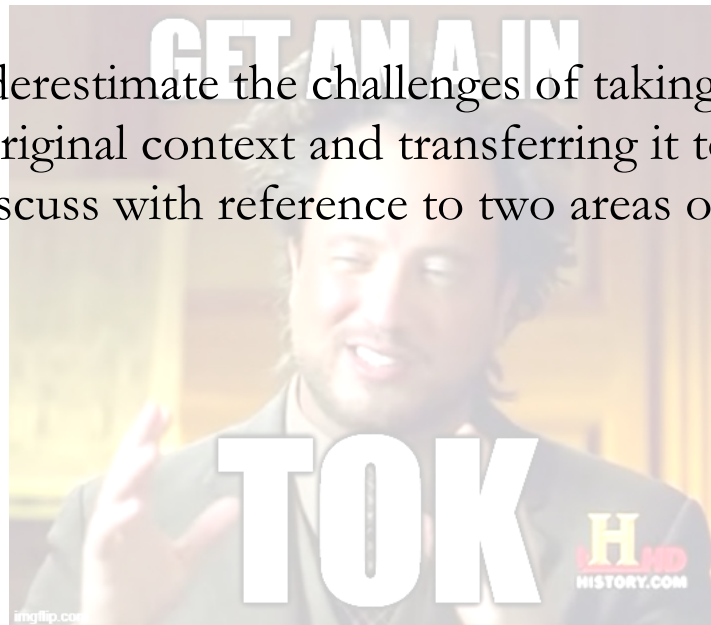
If you need more help, send me your draft! I got your back! [Click this link to find my online store.](#) Whether you need me to provide a quick check and predicted grade, or you want to zoom and shoot me multiple drafts, I'm here to help you out! Revisions are affordable, so send me a DM!

I highly recommend using one of my organizers available from my website. [Click here to get my free download packet](#) and get started drafting!



Title 4:

Do we underestimate the challenges of taking knowledge out of its original context and transferring it to a different context? Discuss with reference to two areas of knowledge.



Thoughts on the Title

This is one of those good ol' yes/no titles. The easy way to organize this title is this.

There's an easy thing to overlook – this is not an essay describing people taking information out of its original context. It's about whether or not we underestimate the challenges of doing so. A bunch of C papers will write a descriptive essay of the first. Top scores will critically evaluate the second.

So as you research, and look at my research, first start with a time in which knowledge was taken out of its original context. Then you need to figure out whether or not the challenge of using it in a new or different way was underestimated. To be honest, this seems hard to me. Writing a C-level paper on this will be easy. Writing an A might take a lot of detailed research.

Finally, and I said this in my breakdown, you can be liberally regarding who “we” is. “We” could be the

knowledge authority or expert. Or it could be society as a whole.

Since there are other titles that are easier to research, this would not be my first choice as a title. Title #2 is harder than this, but not by much.

How to Organize This Title

Simple way of organizing:

Yes we underestimate it...

AOK1

AOK 2

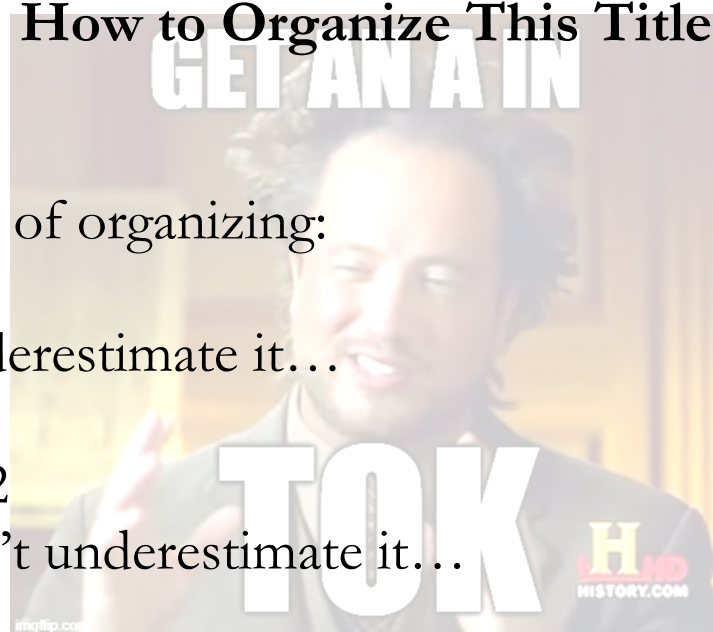
No we don't underestimate it...

AOK 1

AOK 2

Some other ways of organizing:

Organize around the *effects* of underestimating and overestimating.



Yes, we overestimate the challenges, but there are different effects that can help us judge the overestimation:

We underestimate the challenges, but this leads to new knowledge...

AOK1

AOK2

We overestimate the challenges, and it leads to problems...

AOK1

AOK2

So your approach to the title is yes, here are the reasons, and here are the effects.

What about this:

The transfer of knowledge stayed in the same AOK

AOK 1

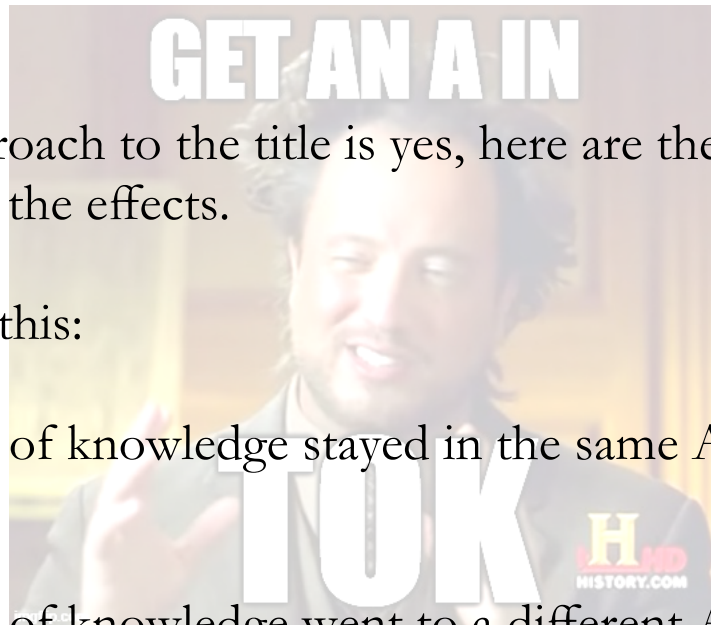
AOK 2

The transfer of knowledge went to a different AOK

AOK 1

AOK 2

*In each, you talk about whether it was over/underestimated and what the effect was. Remember that you can define “we” to help you out.



Ultimately, you want to go past the yes/no. A top answer will go into what the effects are of underestimating or overestimating. I overestimated X, so what happened? I underestimated Y, and what were the implications?

A top conclusion would then address the title by bringing up the significance (or lack thereof) of how we approach the transfer of knowledge from one context to another.



Research & Examples for The Arts

Bob Dylan...again!

One of the really interesting ways of approach this could be artists knowledge of a genre, and using this knowledge in a different genre. So this would be changing context, but not AOKs.

When Dylan took his knowledge of folk music and transferred it to electric rock and roll, did he overestimate the challenge? Dylan himself may not have, but many people did. He was hated and demonized for changing genres and applying his knowledge in different contexts.

Think about other artists who have changed genres. Did they underestimate the challenges that they would face? There are so many different directions to go here. As you do, however, make sure that it's about knowledge, not just their career and art.

Art is Good Business

Artists have crossed over into the business world lately. You can think about people like [Dr. Dre](#), [Jimmy Iovine](#), Jay-Z, [Taylor Swift](#) and others, as they have used their knowledge to try to make money through other endeavors.

Did we underestimate the challenges that they faced? What challenges *did* they face? Should we have underestimated it? These are all different approaches that you can take once you briefly describe what knowledge someone took from one context into another.



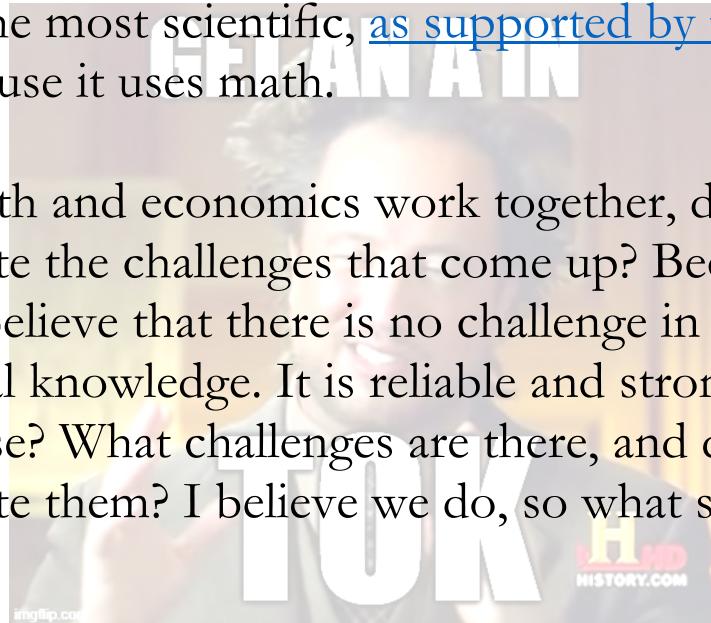
Research & Examples from Math & Human Sciences

Math in Economics

This is probably one of the easiest things to talk about, partially because it's super controversial. I wrote about this in my Title #2 guide, but there is a [belief that economics and mathematics can work together](#), or not at all.

Most economists believe that their discipline in the human sciences is the most scientific, [as supported by this source](#), and it's because it uses math.

So when math and economics work together, do we underestimate the challenges that come up? Because most economists believe that there is no challenge in using mathematical knowledge. It is reliable and strong. But is that really the case? What challenges are there, and do we underestimate them? I believe we do, so what should we do now?



Math/Algorithms in Human Sciences

One of the best quotes I've heard in TOK land is "Algorithms are opinions embedded in code." [This is from a Ted Talk by Cathy O'Neil](#). People are using math to create algorithms that create policy. This is a perfect example of taking knowledge from one AOK to another. What are the

challenges, do we underestimate them, and what are the implications of this?



Research & Examples from History

Historical? Drama?

An example I've seen used well a few times by November 2023 students was the [film Queen Cleopatra](#). This was passed off as a work of Historical fiction/documentary. But a lot of the promotion was about how historically accurate it was. The controversy came from making it seem as [Cleopatra was black, which Egyptians and historians refute](#).

So when it comes to using Historical knowledge and transferring it to The Arts, do we underestimate the challenges? I think for this example they absolutely did. But what about other works of historically supported art?

History and Policy

[1619 Project vs 1776 Commission](#)

I mentioned this in my Title 1 breakdown, but it may fit here even better! This is an example of Historical knowledge being used in the Human Sciences discipline of politics. The 1619 Project is something by the NY Times in which they claim that the American story begins in 1619, when slaves first came to America. The 1776 Commission was created in response by the Trump Administration to challenge the NY Times. It uses history to create a patriotic and nationalistic portrayal of the American story.

Both of these, however, use history as a way to influence policy and politics. And they both tend to experience the same challenges and make the same mistakes. There are many things that we could say were underestimated here, so this could work quite well.

As I always say, however, if you are *not* American, make sure that you do extra research here, so that you can fully grasp the nuances of a different country's politics and history.



Natural Sciences Evidence & Research

OK, Fine. Vaccine Time.

I always recommend against talking about COVID-19 and the vaccine, but there was never a time that scientific knowledge was transferred to the context of political sciences more than this. [Did we underestimate the challenges? Absolutely!](#) Pick your angle, pick your scientist, pick your politician. This example totally works, just take a specific and tangible angle as you do your research.

Scientifically Measuring Art

This is a cool article in which scientists are using brain scans to study people who are viewing art. Does this allow us to scientifically measure the quality of art? What challenges could possibly happen with this? Are the scientists actually creating any knowledge at all?

Scientifically Accurate Art

When we take scientific knowledge and try to make it artistically entertaining, are we underestimating the challenges in doing so? Or should we just screw it and make something fun? [Here's a list of sci-fi movies that are actually using scientific knowledge.](#) Start here, and ponder not whether it's challenging, but whether we underestimate the challenge. Of course there's a challenge in applying the laws

of physics when we're writing an entertaining story. But do we underestimate just how challenging that is? Again, a liberal definition of "we" could be useful here.



How to Conclude Title #4

To close, you want to begin with a yes/no. That's not how you end. Start by saying that we do or do not underestimate the challenges of transferring knowledge from its original context.

Then you can choose a direction to go.

It might be a suggestion – when we *do* transfer this knowledge, what should we do in order to not over/underestimate it?

It could be a statement – the challenge will always be there...so what do we do about it?

You could come up with an overall cause for the over/underestimation. We underestimate the challenge because...

No matter what you do, answer the title, then tell your reader what to do with all of the information that you've taught is. Leave us with a lesson, point, or takeaway. Don't waste any words summarizing or recapping.