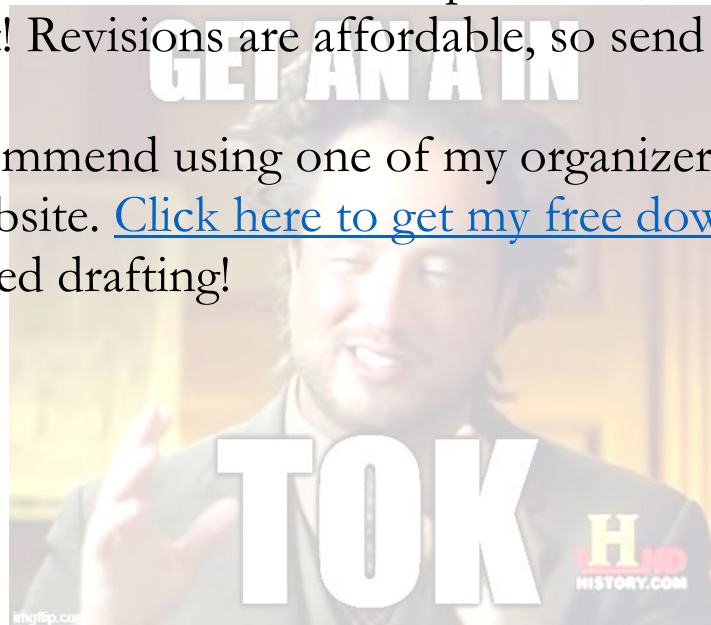


Get an A in TOK Essay Guide

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

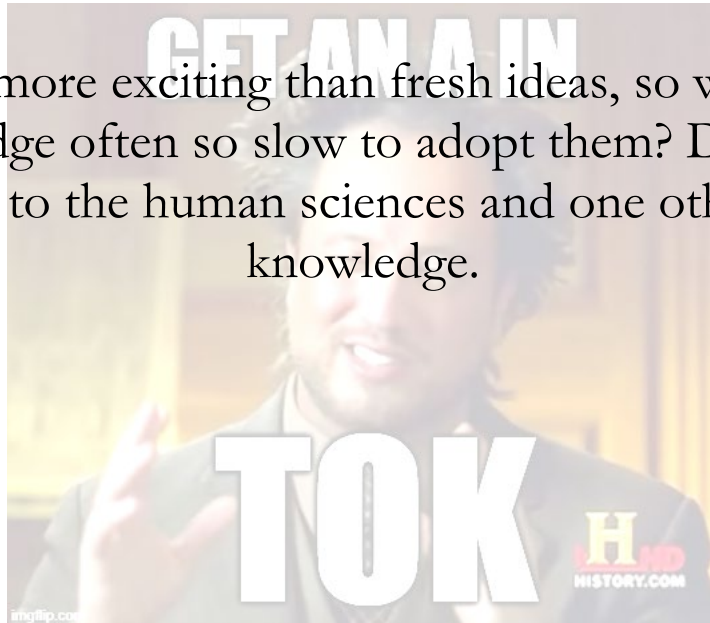
If you need more help, send me your draft! I got your back! [Click this link to find my online store.](#) Whether you need me to provide a quick check and predicted grade, or you want to zoom and shoot me multiple drafts, I'm here to help you out! Revisions are affordable, so send me a DM!

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 3:

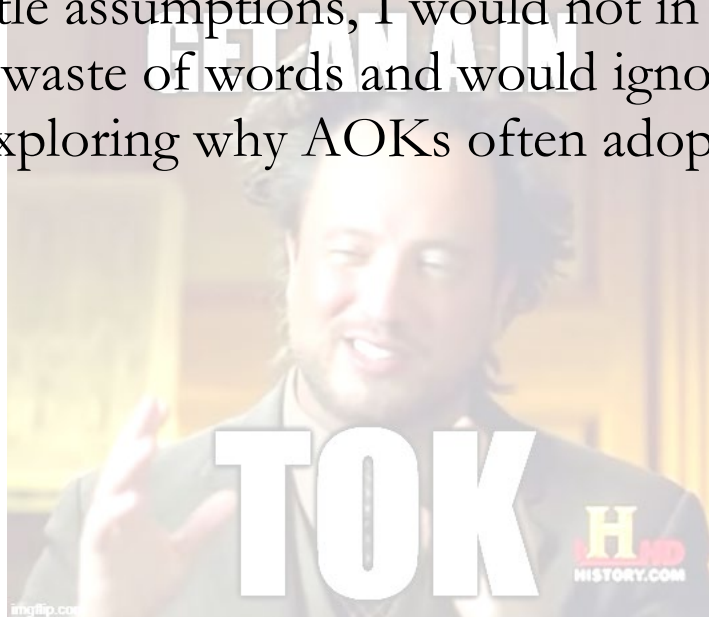
Nothing is more exciting than fresh ideas, so why are areas of knowledge often so slow to adopt them? Discuss with reference to the human sciences and one other area of knowledge.



Thoughts on the Title

This may be the easiest title I've ever seen! But so is #5, which is interesting because they are *very* similar.

This title assumes that “nothing is more exciting than fresh ideas.” While sometimes we may want to challenge title assumptions, I would not in this case. It would be a waste of words and would ignore the charge of exploring why AOKs often adopt new ideas slowly.



Thoughts on Organization

This title gives us an opportunity to go against the basic organization.

Most titles ask us to give perspectives, or claims, and counter-perspectives, or counterclaims. I would *not* do that for this title. Instead, I'd organize multiple “why” sections.

Why have some AOK's slowly adopted new ideas. Before you research, list as many as you can. Then find examples of those. My list:

- Challenged current paradigm
- Challenged common belief
- Challenged a famous authority in the AOK
- Challenged religion (this is too common, don't do it!)
- The claim was huge and sweeping; hard to believe
- The new idea was hard to understand, even by experts

Slowly accepting fresh ideas can also be viewed as a good thing! Brainstorm reasons for this, as well:

- The idea was wrong!

- The AOK intentionally accepts new ideas slowly, as to only accept the truth
- The source of the knowledge can be suspect
- They accepted it eventually, but it just needed to be tested.

As I will talk about in the conclusion, it would be strategic to comment on the nature of accepting new ideas quickly. Is it good or bad? Prudent or foolish?

Basic Organization:

Introduction

AOK 1

Claim

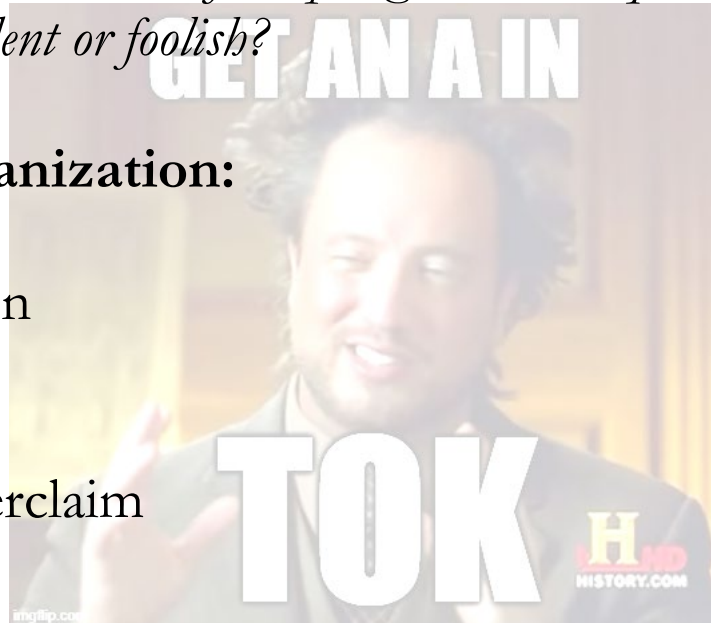
Counterclaim

AOK 2

Claim

Counterclaim

Conclusion



Unique Organization for #3 (easy mode):

Introduction

Why #1

AOK 1

AOK 2

Why #2

AOK 1

AOK 2

Conclusion

Unique Organization for #3 (hard mode):

Introduction

Why #1

AOK 1

AOK 2

Why #2

AOK 1

AOK 2

Why #3

AOK 1

AOK 2

Conclusion



Alternate Organization for #3

Introduction

It was Necessary Because...

AOK #1

AOK#2
It Was Not Necessary Because...
AOK #1
AOK #2
Conclusion



Research Examples

Art

This title lets you focus on ideas not just knowledge. That makes it a lot easier to integrate examples in the arts, as ideas could be interpreted as techniques, perspectives, and directions.

[Salon de Refuses](#)

A great example about new ideas being banned! What's interesting is that the "refused" art has become more famous than the art that was allowed.

[Banksy Selling His Own Art for \\$60](#)

Why do we accept the ideas of Banksy's art being good when its associated with his name, but not when it doesn't have his name? This shows that we are not really accepting the new idea of street art being high art...unless it's a Banksy.

[Bob Dylan Goes Electric](#)

Every band changes genres now (Taylor Swift!) but Dylan was the first one to really do it. People would shout at him in his shows and boo his electric guitar. Now he's considered a genius.

Acceptance of Impressionism by Critics

You could look at nearly any new movement in art and see how quickly (or slowly) the artists are embraced. This is a funny example because no one in the world now believes that the Impressionists are bad artists. You could also look at the advent of Rock & Roll and Rap.



Natural Sciences

[Barbara McClintock & DNA \(Again\)](#)

This is the example that keeps on giving. McClintock's ideas were not believed because she was a woman. Is this widespread? Or is it a one-off example? [Check out this link.](#)

[Continental Drift as Pseudoscience?!](#)

There are multiple reasons why German Alfred Wegener was ignored when he tried to explain why South America and Africa might fit together really well. His nationality played a part! [This link also helps.](#)

[Einstein was Wrong?!](#)

When Einstein published a paper describing the nature of light (building on decades-old research) he was widely rejected by his contemporaries. His findings were too radical! He challenged an explanation that was useful and helpful in explaining natural phenomena. But it was wrong!

[Here's a cool article about things that Einstein got wrong.](#)

Human Sciences

[Donald Trump Was Right?!](#)

Then-president Trump basically predicted the Russia/Ukraine war when he insulted every leader at the NATO Summit in 2018. Why didn't people believe him, despite the fact that he was 100% right? No one in the world would argue with what he says now.

[Information Cascades – Where Can You Find Them?](#)

There are many places in economics and politics (both Human Sciences) where we believe things that we shouldn't. Why are things so quickly believed, and, more importantly, how does this affect the instances when we choose *not* to believe new things?

[The Liar's Dividend](#)

This is a new concept that can explain how technology has made us suspicious of everything! If we know that lies are out there, then what should we believe? [This example is just plain sad! Another article by Poynter.](#)

[Democracy. That is all.](#)

Most people would agree that democracy is a good idea. But it didn't take the world by storm for a while. Why? Democracy is bad for authorities! What other

ideas were stunted because they were challenging the powerful or the status quo?



Conclusion

Many students are going to give examples of people who weren't believed because they were woman or heretical and then call it a day. **Don't be so basic!**

Instead, contemplate the nature of accepting new ideas. If we *are* so slow (as the title has assumed and you have proven), then what should we do? Is this a good thing? Bad thing? Both?

You could open or close with a time in which you didn't believe something, and then apply your new knowledge here.

You could also connect it to something in your country or community.

Overall, I would suggest taking a stance and justifying your opinion by evaluating the effectiveness of slowly or quickly accepting new ideas. Give your examiner a suggestion or piece of advice on what they should do the next time they hear a novel idea.



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