

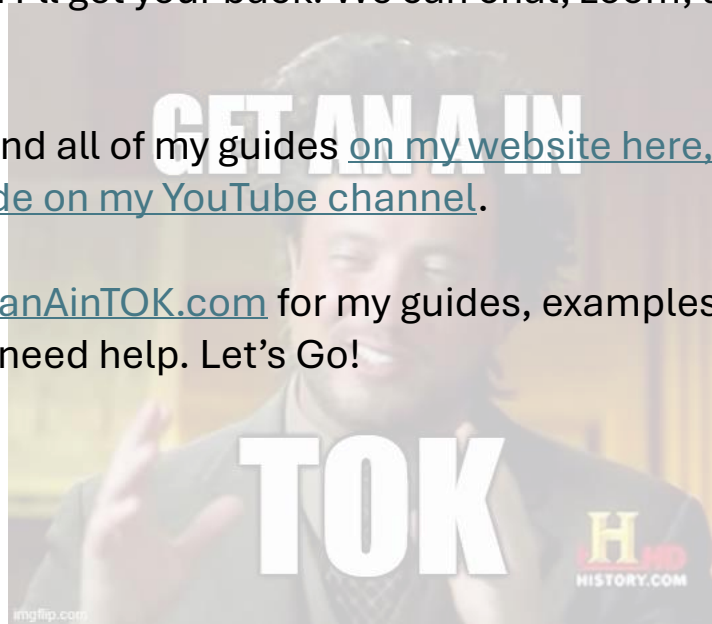
Get an A in TOK Essay Title #3 Guide

Thanks for checking out my channel and resources. You can do this!

If you need extra help (and I know you do!) [click here](#) to send me your essay and I'll get your back! We can chat, zoom, and work together!

Make sure to find all of my guides [on my website here](#), and every title will have a [guide on my YouTube channel](#).

Check out GetanAinTOK.com for my guides, examples, and sample outlines if you need help. Let's Go!



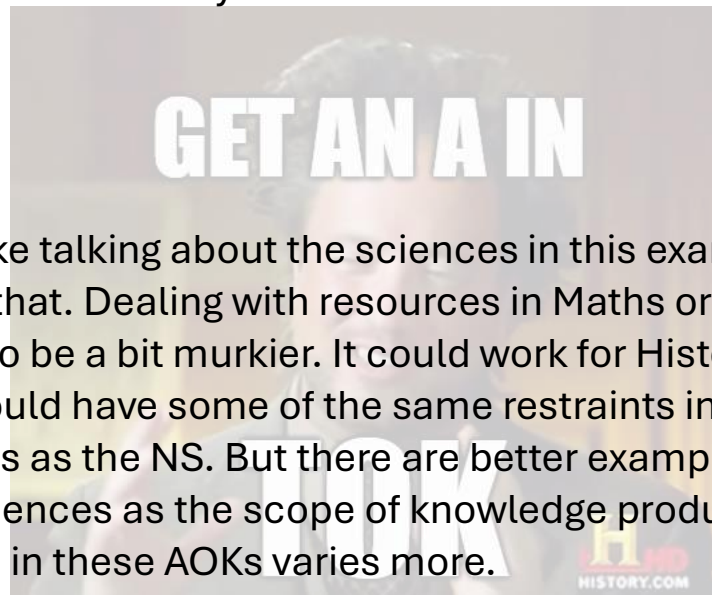
3. The **ABORT One**: How can we reconcile the relentless drive to pursue knowledge with the finite resources we have available? Discuss with reference to the natural sciences **and one other** area of knowledge.

Choose this if:

- You have examples ready to go.
- You can write concisely
- You watch my videos

Some Notes:

- I really like talking about the sciences in this example and suggest that. Dealing with resources in Maths or Arts or history is going to be a bit murkier. It could work for History, however, and it would have some of the same restraints in finite resources as the NS. But there are better examples to be found in the sciences as the scope of knowledge produced and acquired in these AOKs varies more.
- The easiest finite resource will be money. Use this example, of course, but top scores will focus on others. Be creative! Time, natural resources, goodwill, and workers can all be seen as finite resources.
- Make sure that it's clear how each of your resources is finite.
- Each example needs to demonstrate a way that someone reconciled the drive. For example, *we reconciled the drive to pursue knowledge of how to solve the fossil fuel crisis by inventing a new technology to find more fossil fuels.*
- "Pursue Knowledge" can be interpreted in many ways. It can connect to both knowledge production and acquisition. Be pretty liberal with this phrase, and use it often.



- As you'll see in the examples, it might not be good to reconcile this all the time. Maybe we *shouldn't* reconcile the drives. Go into ethics on this, as applicable.



Natural Sciences

US Government Funding – [Arpa-e](#) is a very successful way that the federal government decides how to fund programs and ideas that are not ready for funding by the private sector. This now receives bi-partisan support besides being an expensive part of the federal government.

Winning the Lottery – Should we not have scientists make proposals and instead just institute a lottery system? [This article](#) thinks so.

International Cooperation – [The ISS](#) is a way to share costs and increase goodwill between countries.

Do We Have Enough Lithium? – as we run out of fossil fuels, do we have enough lithium? Read [this article's](#) take, but also look at other perspectives.

Fracking is the Solution (to this title) – One way of reconciling the demand is to invent new technologies! [Though fracking is controversial](#), it does provide a response to this title.

Saving Virtual Lives to Save Real Ones – Instead of creating real drugs, the [pharmaceutical industry can create and test drugs virtually!](#) [This saves money, time, and physical resources!](#) [Paxlovid](#) is an example of how computers aided in saving time (finite resource) when creating a new drug.

@home – this effort allows non-scientists to let scientists use their computer bandwidth to support scientific efforts. [SETI@home](#) and [folding@home](#) are two efforts like this. This reconciles the drive with

the finite resources by finding free, potentially unlimited resources donated by the public.

Crowdsourcing – Similar to the @home efforts, scientists have looked to [crowdsourcing](#) to find funding. Also...[glowing plants](#) is a thing. It also failed. Great story, though.

Government Goodwill/Public Permission – This could be seen as a finite resource, as you can run out of both. I love the example of the [Chinese government not allowing certain DNA experiments](#), as getting permission for anything in China could be seen as a limited/finite resource. This *is* a stretch. But the [US did it too!](#) Here's [another example](#).

People as Resources – one resource in the sciences is people to do the science! There is a finite number of scientists and potential scientists, so many people have tried different ways to encourage young people to study STEM. [Article 1](#). [Article 2](#). [Article 3](#).

Human Sciences

Incremental vs Groundbreaking Research – Learn about [incremental improvement](#) and how it can be cost-saving but high-impact. [This link](#) has a lot of examples and can connect to NS.

[SpaceX Falcon 9](#) – This fits in both HS and NS, depending on how you want to tackle it. Space X saves money by being partially reusable. This has led to...

Governments Saving Money - Governments save money by using private contractors. The US government, for example, explores space despite budget restraints (finite resources) by using private contractors such as [SpaceX](#) and [Blue Origin](#). Many different government contractors would be employed for this reason.

Algorithms in the Judicial System – computer algorithms are used in many aspects of the judicial system for things such as calculating the [likelihood of someone skipping bail](#) and [more](#). This is an example of when the use of technology could be seen as bad, and when reconciling the two demands may be unethical. Watch this [Cathy O'Neill video](#), of course, because it will give you more information and is in the TOK Evidence Hall of Fame.

[Open Source Software Development](#) – I didn't understand this for a long time, but businesses use Open Source software because they can [collaborate](#) with each other to develop new features and collectively fix bugs.

[Businesses Using AI in Hiring](#) – Many businesses are using AI tools to save time (finite resource) in sorting through resumes and interviewing candidates. This got [Amazon](#) in a lot of trouble.

Agile vs Waterfall - Businesses have moved away from the [waterfall](#) method of product development and moved towards an [Agile framework](#). This reconciles the demands of saving time/money with producing new products in two ways. First, it prevents mistakes by moving at an iterative approach. Secondly, it saves money by preventing products from being produced that have major, potentially foundational, issues upon release.

