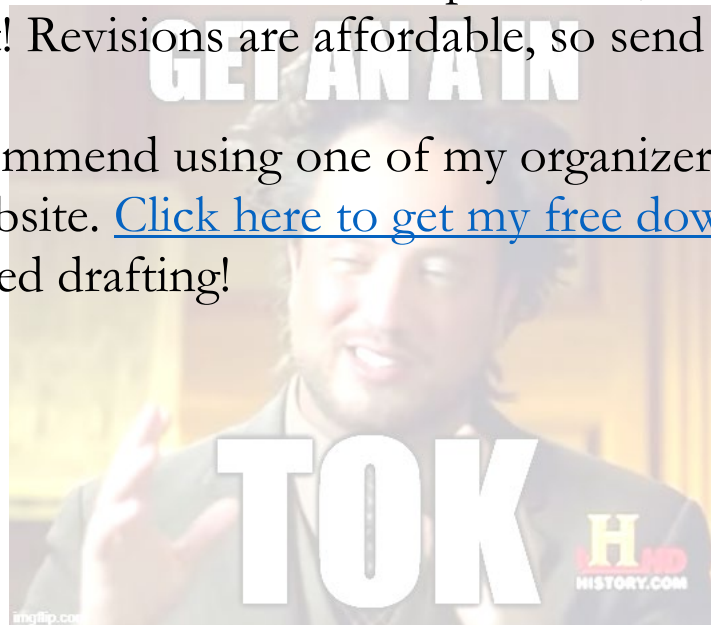# Get an A in TOK Essay Guide

Thanks for downloading this guide – I hope it helps you get an A. Or a B. But really an A.
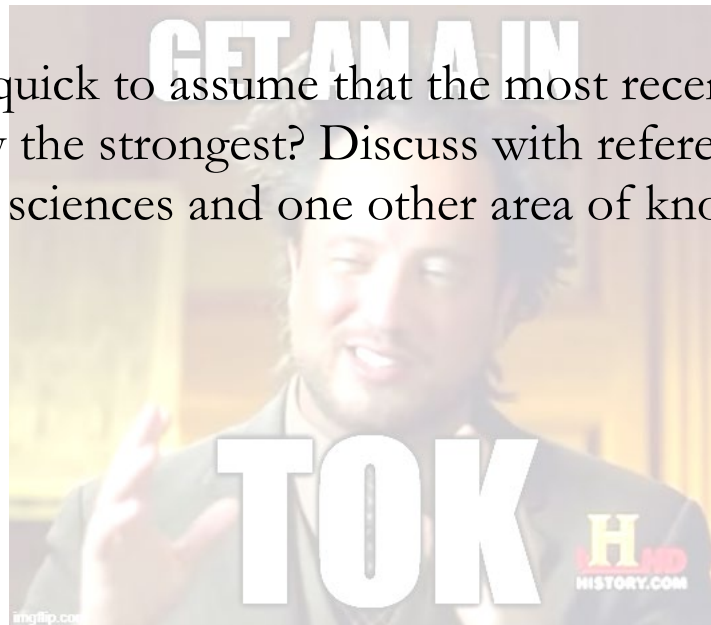
If you need more help, send me your draft! I got your back! Click this link to find my online store. Whether you need me to provide a quick check and predicted grade, or you want to zoom and shoot me multiple drafts, I'm here to help you out! Revisions are affordable, so send me a DM!

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 6:**

Are we too quick to assume that the most recent evidence is inevitably the strongest? Discuss with reference to the natural sciences and one other area of knowledge.

# Thoughts on Title

This could be another yes/no, so avoid something that simple. Instead, think about:

      Why recency appears strong
      What happens when we do so
      The nature of strong evidence
      How we should approach new evidence

There are many ways of interpreting "we." Nearly any situation will demonstrate *some* kind of person assuming that recent evidence is the strongest. To use a variety of perspectives, interpret the "we" differently. So in some instances "we" could be a large group of experts. In another example, it could be you!

Some students will waste time exploring, explaining, and defining the word "inevitably." Don't fall into this trap. The title is creating a hypothetical situation in which people assume that new evidence is inevitably the strongest. You want to break down the entire situation, not one word.

The phrase "too quick" should be taken to be a bad thing. The title is asking if we should accept new evidence with some scrutiny and care.

Finally, a lot of evidence for this title is similar to things I brainstormed for Title 3. If you have seen my video on that, you'll notice some repetition. That's fine.

# Organizing the Essay

## Basic

Yes, we are too quick to assume…
    NS
    AOK2
No, we are not too quick to assume
    NS
    AOK2

*The issue with a "no" perspective is that there are millions of examples in which we have been quick to assume that new evidence is the strongest. A thoughtful answer will discuss the significance of assumptions, the nature of evidence, and why we are convinced by evidence.*

## Version 2 – Evidence Types
Empirical Evidence
    NS – people did not assume that it was strongest too quickly
    AOK2 – people *did* assume that it was strongest too quickly
Theoretical Evidence
    NS – People didn't assume it was strongest because it was rejected by experts.
    AOK2 – People assumed it was strongest because it helped solve a problem

## Version 3 – True and False

Evidence Was False
>    NS – people assumed too quickly that it was strongest
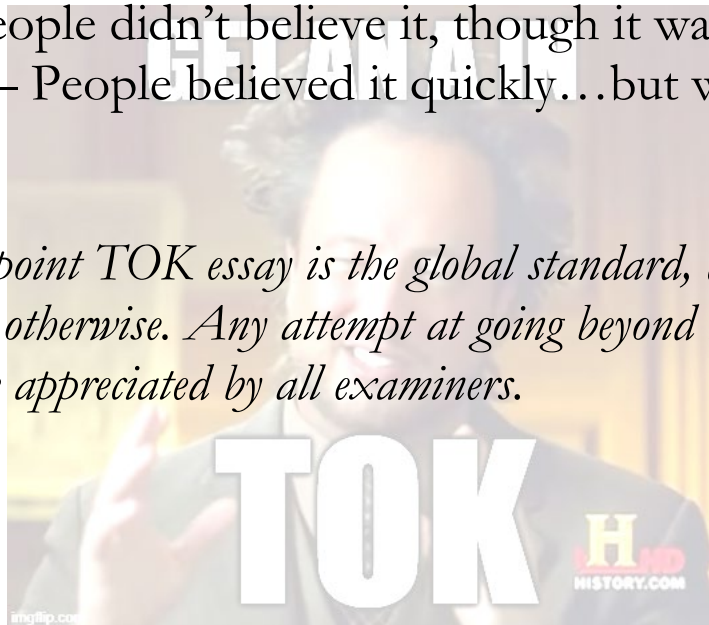>    AOK2 – people didn't assume too quickly that it was strongest.

Evidence Was Good
>    NS – People didn't believe it, though it was true
>    AOK2 – People believed it quickly…but why?

*Note: A four-point TOK essay is the global standard, despite my encouragement otherwise. Any attempt at going beyond these simple outlines will be appreciated by all examiners.*

# Natural Sciences Evidence & Examples

**Avoid!**

Galileo & the Catholic church. It totally works, but the worst students use this.

Anything COVID vaccine-related and recent. This requires no research.

**DNA…again. Sexism!**

I talk a lot about Barbara McClintock in most of my videos. She presented evidence of how DNA and genes work, but was ignored because she was a woman. What other scientists were ignored because they were not a part of the "in" crowd? In this case people did *not* assume that her new evidence was the strongest.
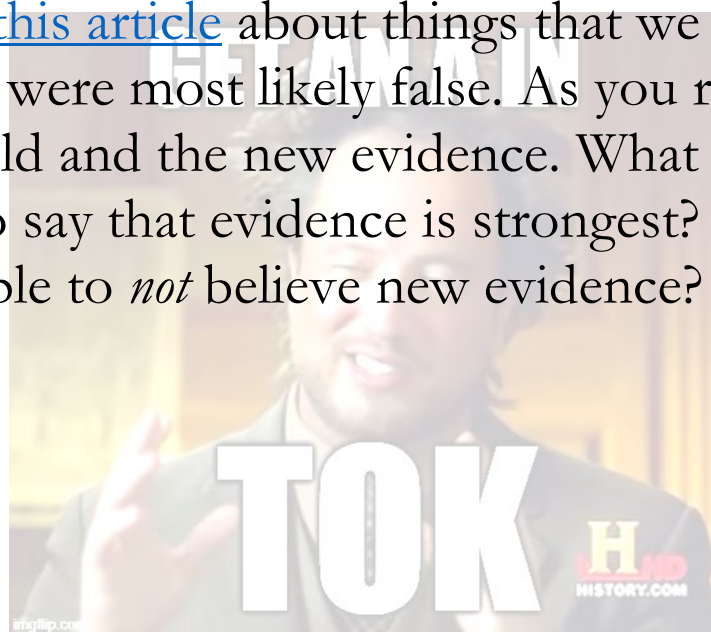
## Continental Drift as Pseudoscience?!

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. Why did people believe his new evidence was not the strongest evidence? Did his evidence even matter?

## 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! This shows that evidence can be new but wrong.

Check out this article about things that we learned in school that were most likely false. As you read, think about the old and the new evidence. What causes someone to say that evidence is strongest? What causes people to *not* believe new evidence?

# Human Sciences Evidence & Examples

## Evidence in Law
Find an instance in which new evidence was brought to light far after a trial occurred. There could be a new witness, evidence object, or technology (DNA)! This would work so well that I might choose HS for this essay just for this approach.

## Improving on Knowledge
Think about economic theories that are believed, but can be improved. Look at this speech, in which Secretary Yellen claims that Joe Biden has improved Supply-Side economics. What other theories have been "improved" by new knowledge and evidence? Did we accept these quickly? Or not?

## Calling Elections
Research how different organizations, governments, and media outlets call elections. This article by the AP explains their process. Similarly, read this article by Nate Silver, the most famous political statistician, about how he blew the 2016 election and what he did with the evidence he received. Elections are all about recent evidence and what we do with it. Are we too quick to assume that the evidence is strongest? Or not?

# History Evidence & Examples

## The Dead Sea Scrolls

Read this article by the [University of Notre Dame](University of Notre Dame), which quickly assumes that the new evidence is the strongest. Why do they do this? But [this article](this article) says that some of the differences may teach us different things. She doesn't think the new evidence is as ground-breaking as most people.

## Aliens. Mexico?

There are always crazy people bringing up new pieces of "evidence." [If you didn't see it in the news](If you didn't see it in the news), there was a huge hearing by the Mexican government unveiling evidence about Aliens. How does this explore the idea of new evidence, and evidence in general? Why is it persuasive (or not)?

## New Discoveries in History

This title is easy because of [articles like this](articles like this). Look at literally any piece of evidence, and ask whether or not we are assuming it to be the strongest piece of evidence out there. If we are assuming it's the strongest…why? For example, when new sarcophagi were discovered after Notre Dame burned down, new evidence was discovered. It seems like pretty good evidence. Why?

# Conclusion

In your conclusion, return to the phrase "too quick," and talk about whether or not we are too quick or not. But keep going; you should have already said this in your thesis.

Use the conclusion to discuss the nature of evidence and what makes it strong. If a piece of evidence is very strong, is there such thing as believing it "too quickly"?

You can also discuss the nature of strong evidence in the first place. What has to happen for evidence to be trustworthy, so that we aren't making hasty assumptions? Blend your research here together (don't repeat or recap) to come to your own conclusion.

Finally, create a sort of application at the end of the conclusion (250 words is best!). Tell your examiner what they or you should do the next time you're presented with new evidence. Or, if you want to, use a real-life anecdote from your own life. Bring it up in the introduction, reveal whether or not you believed it too quickly, and then explain how you *should* have handled it in the conclusion. Provide some relevance to the title to score well!