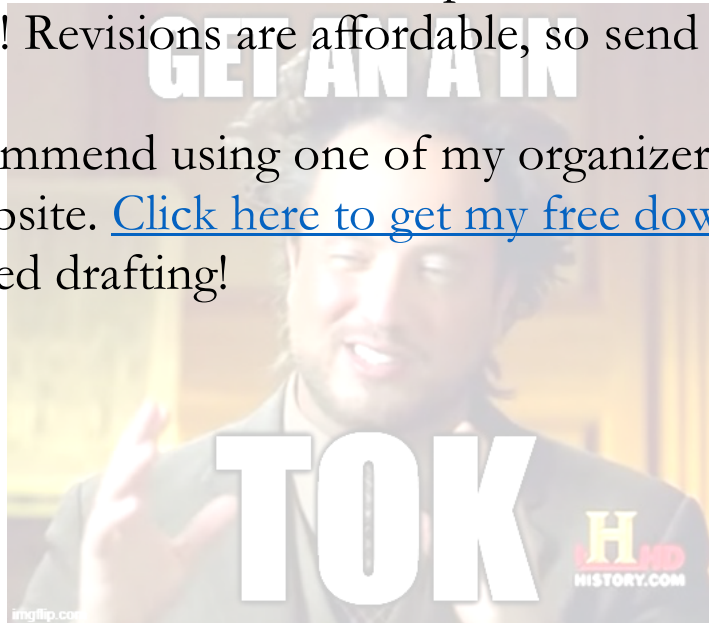


Get an A in TOK Essay Guide

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

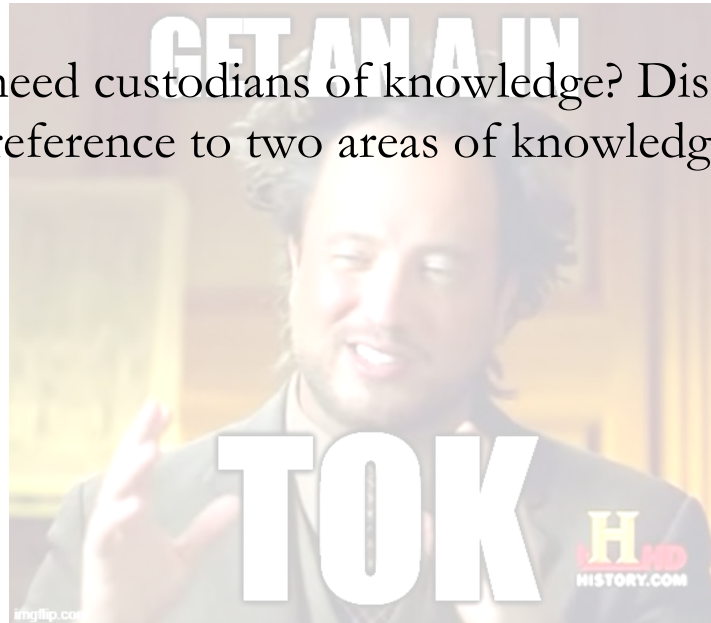
If you need more help, send me your draft! I got your back! [Click this link to find my online store.](#) Whether you need me to provide a quick check and predicted grade, or you want to zoom and shoot me multiple drafts, I'm here to help you out! Revisions are affordable, so send me a DM!

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:

Do we need custodians of knowledge? Discuss with reference to two areas of knowledge.



Thoughts on Title

It's essential to define "custodian of knowledge." You can define this in many ways, or you can use the resource that I shared in my initial video.

Also – I don't want to give a definition here, because if I do, then everyone's going to use it and then it'll be clear that you didn't come up with your own. Instead, let's look at what custodians' DO do.

Doodoo.

Custodian, as told by Microsoft:

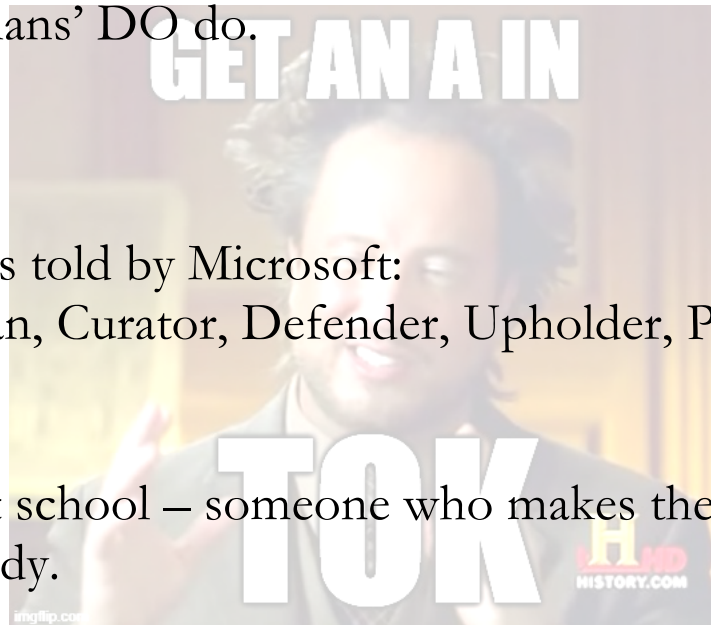
Guardian, Curator, Defender, Upholder, Protector
Keeper

Custodian at school – someone who makes the facilities usable and tidy.

[OG Custodian of Knowledge](#) – Philip Abelson

System of sharing knowledge must be "effective" and "easily accessible." Experts exist in small fields so that we can find knowledge that we may not know because of our own specialties.

Initially: YES! Of course

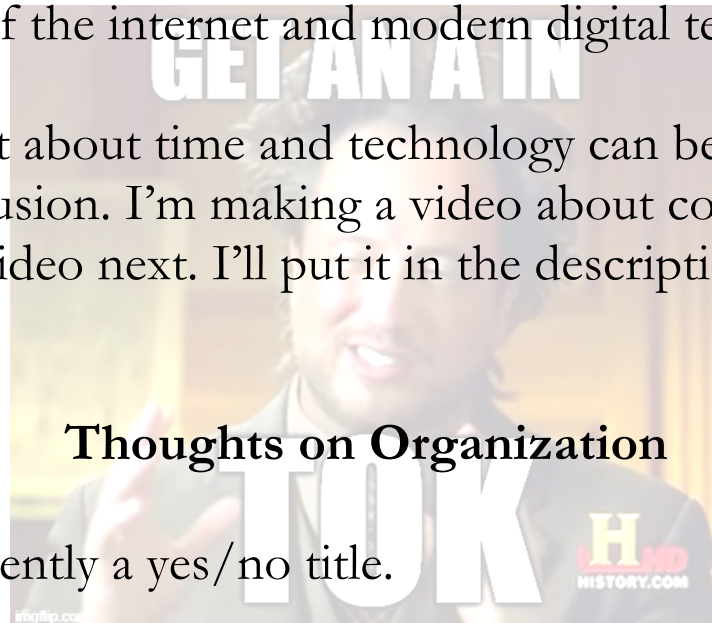


How could there be a no: Internet, search engines, and ChatGPT.

Approach it this way: Do we need custodians of knowledge *in today's world?*

Define the rules: you are defining “CoK” in a specific way and limiting your discussion to the current age, as custodians of knowledge were undeniably necessary before the advent of the internet and modern digital technology.

This thought about time and technology can be connected to the conclusion. I’m making a video about conclusions, so watch that video next. I’ll put it in the description and comments.



This is inherently a yes/no title.

Most students will conclude something in the middle. Avoid this and take a stand. Though the answer to this title, and most yes/no titles is clearly “sometimes,” go ahead and be persuasive at the end and say yes or no, and justify why.

If you have seen my other videos, know that the basic organization is what 98% of students will do, and that’s fine:

Introduction

AOK 1 – Yes

AOK 1 – No

AOK 2 – Yes

AOK 2 – No

Conclusion

This is fine, will work, and some people will Get A's in TOK using this. But that doesn't set you up well. Here are some alternative organization styles.

Temporal Approach

Introduction

Yes – they were needed in the past because...

AOK 1

AOK 2

No – they're not needed today

AOK 1

AOK 2

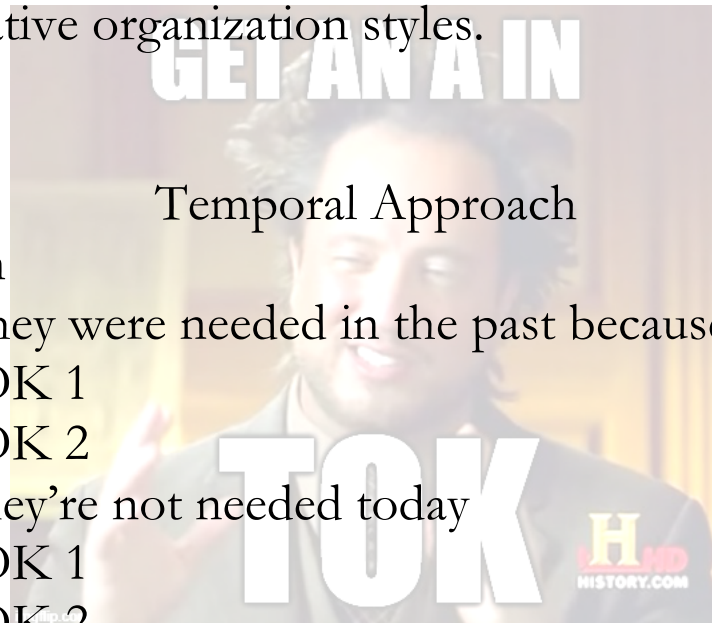
Conclusion – if they were needed, and now aren't, what should we say about the future?

Critical Role

Yes – Custodians are needed when they X (describe a specific role)

AOK 1

AOK 2



Compare, contrast role

No – Custodians are not needed when they Y

AOK 1

AOK 2

Compare, contrast role

Conclusion – Overall, which need prevails? Which possibility is more important?

Internet/Digital Custodian Approach

Yes – The Internet still requires custodians because...

AOK 1

AOK 2

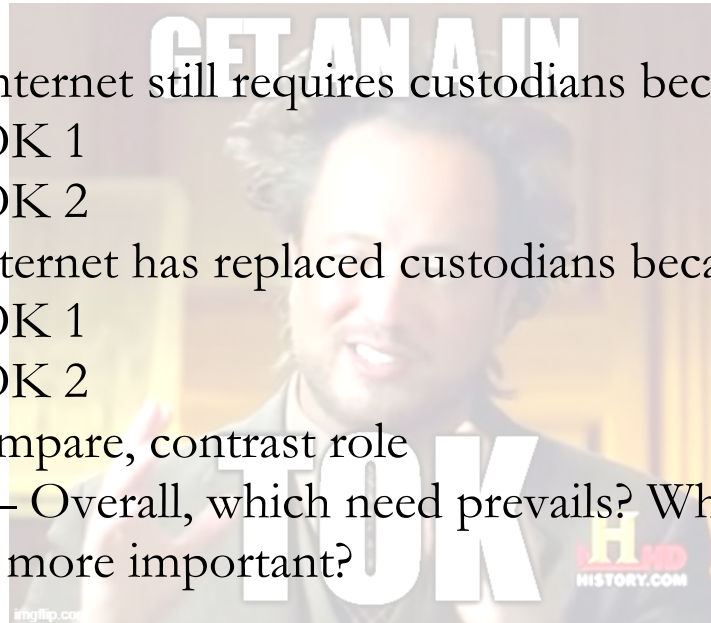
No – The internet has replaced custodians because...

AOK 1

AOK 2

Compare, contrast role

Conclusion – Overall, which need prevails? Which possibility is more important?



Evidence

The Arts

[The Role of Critics in Art \(Old Town Road\)](#)

Are critics custodians? Do some opinions matter in The Arts more than others? What about musicians and artists – can they be custodians, too? Does it even matter? Who gets to say?

[Critics hate them, audiences love them.](#)

Think about films that got terrible reviews from critics (if you count them as custodians) but great reviews from audiences. Choose one that you like and connect with, despite it getting bad reviews. What knowledge, method, or criteria is being used by a custodian to say it's bad? Does this matter?

[Salon des Refuses \(again\)](#)

Read the whole story – critics refused art, but the story ends with Napoleon III acting as a caretaker of artistic value and technique.

[Metacritic, and other aggregators](#)

Do we need custodians of knowledge if computers can compile, and then value, other people's opinions? Or, is this just a meta-custodian?

Sciences

[Replication Crisis](#)

When other people replicate studies (in both Human & Natural Sciences) we tend to consider the knowledge true. But if something can't be replicated, what does that mean? How do custodians take care of knowledge (if it even *is* knowledge)? Make sure to look at a specific study, not just this concept.

[Most Published Research Findings Are False—But a Little Replication Goes a Long Way](#)

Pretty Self-explanatory. Remember to stay specific. Don't just take this title and discuss the concept of peer review or replication in general.

[Peer Review & Pressure to Publish](#)

Read this helpful article to both understand how Peer Review works and to explore Pressure to Publish. This resource could be helpful as a way to illustrate a specific study that was (or wasn't) proven to be true by custodians.

[Tomorrow's Research, Today!](#)

SSRN is a rapid publisher of academic work. Do we need custodians if people can simply publish their work really quickly? How do we know if things here are true?