

Philosophy of Knowledge

Overview:

What is knowledge and why do we seek it? Why do people desire being right? In this lesson we will investigate the power of knowledge and why it's important to us.

Goal:

To get students to think about what knowledge is, as well as to get students to critically think why they would desire to be right.

Activity:

- In this lesson you will begin with an activity before getting into discussion. For the activity find an online jeopardy game or a kahoot that some of the students would have familiarity with. The goal for this activity is to test their knowledge, whether it be on something completely random or very specific. Students are not expected to know everything but, be invested in competing for points. You can make up your own trivia game with a points system if you desire.
- At the conclusion of the game note who won and had the most points.

Discussion:

- Ask the students how they felt about the game. Were they happy or sad at the end of the game? Did anyone hope they won?
- Ask why a particular student won the game? Were they lucky or did they know the content?
- What does it mean to have knowledge of something? Could you say that whoever won this game is the most knowledgeable? Why or why not?
- Why do we seek to be right so often?
- Is there power in knowledge? Why or why not?
- Is it possible to know everything?
- What do you do when you don't know something? Do you try and find the answer or do you do nothing about it?

Final Questions for Students to Reflect on:

- Think back on the game and think about how you would have felt if you knew all the answers?
- Do you think the activity a true test of knowledge or of speed?
- Is knowledge just memorization?
- If you did know the majority of the answers, then think about how you would have felt if you did not know the answer.
- Why do you think it is important to be knowledgeable?