

With reference to two areas of knowledge discuss the way in which shared knowledge can shape personal knowledge

Theory of Knowledge

May 2015

Word Count: 1,484

page 1

In my personal opinion, I think that the prescribed title is wanting me to compare and contrast two areas of knowledge to see how they are integrated together when understanding how shared knowledge can shape the way personal knowledge is gained. But, first of all when understanding an idea, it is important for me to understand vocabulary of which helps me understand what the reading will be about. Important vocabulary like opinion is defined as being the personal belief of a person on an idea or subject that is different from another person or group, making it not universally accepted by everyone since it might not be proven or supported with evidence. On the other hand, the truth about anything is the total opposite. It is known as being universally accurate and of which truth and falsity of a statement is determined by the support of another statement. However, the truth about anything can get in the way of a person's opinion and in vice versa. With that being said, the title itself invites me to consider how the truth and opinion of two areas of knowledge, the arts and history, can have shared knowledge shape personal knowledge with the knowledge question, "If artworks are a result of the artist's imagination, how do they constitute a system of knowledge as a result of life experiences?"

It is of great importance for me to learn through other people's experiences and as it helps them express them through the use of the arts and for me to form my own personal knowledge of the subject. In applying this title to the ways of knowing, emotion, reason, imagination, language, sense perception and memory, I intend to use them to discuss the way in which shared knowledge can shape personal knowledge through the arts and history. The arts as defined by the ToK Guide is, "A collective term that encompasses the creative productions of humans and the visual arts, the performing arts and the literary arts. The arts explore the experience and the reality of being human and are essential elements of culture

page 2

and thought as it creates a bridge between personal and shared knowledge". They use emotion as a way to construct the importance of the personal, but reason as to give meaning to the artwork as it comes from their experience. History studies the recorded past and raises knowledge questions such as, " Whether it is possible to talk meaningfully about a historical fact?" By studying history, it also deepens my understanding of human behaviour by reflecting on the past, their memory, and helping me make sense of the present.

The arts can be viewed as a means of shaping belief and the role of society in it. It determines what is art through the use of sense perception as one can view and interpret in their own meaning through as we learn from history. When choosing to talk about the women's rights movement and its effects on society today, I was able to relate this to myself since it impacts what I am to do as a result of what we have today and what my thoughts on how I should go on with life through the decisions I make. I am very aware of how women fought for their rights with great power and struggle ever since the late 1700's all the way to today still.

With being able to express these feelings and emotion through art as many can be creative with the use of their imagination it lets others know about the experiences they had with reason to why it is being represented as so. The power and perseverance women had back then and still to today into achieving what they wanted, equality and rights, were not however, supported by many others especially men. They opposed the idea of women having any rights, for they had a strong opinion that women did not deserve rights since they were too emotional to use reason when facing the challenges that they did on a daily basis because of a lack of intelligence, strength, and power. Their opinions were bias and even to

page 3

today in my personal experience I have been viewed as being too weak, not fast and especially not strong enough to play as good as boys can when it comes to soccer for example. The boys I know are always thinking about themselves as being so much better than girls and that they would never reach to their level of expertise. Their opinions about women makes me feel inferior, yet determined to do something about it as the women during their movement for equal rights did as well. It makes me think that if women's opinions are not considered, then how reliable is the shared knowledge of history in reality if there are bias opinions of a gender towards another?

The individual experiences that women suffered during the rights movement is very important to understand for it helps artists become aware of the truth or the objective of their art. The objective of an idea or anything is based off more personal knowledge and focuses on how one feels differently in their words since it applies their own emotion to how they feel about the topic through art. Everyone feels, understands and interprets art differently as it can have a different meaning to them because of their own experience. Art makes one look at the world differently as it can present one's own objective ideas and representation of the world. It gives artists the ability to absorb different aspects of the humans and, in this case the women rights movement, to express their feelings and emotions through their work of art.

With learning the truth with art through a different perspective, it can enhance my understanding of the world to becoming more open-minded to looking at the world through new lenses as this famous poster created by J.Howard miller in 1943. It served as an American wartime propoganda poster to promote feminism and to inspire women workers to

join the war effort by working hard, but when the war was over many industries forced women to give over their jobs to returning veterans leaving them with nothing to go towards to and having to return to their old lives as housewives with no chance to becoming someone greater. With this, it proves the idea that change in the world does take time in order to see change and what women were willing to do.

“Rosie the Riveter”



By learning about what other women experienced in their lives individually and in groups helped me learn about how the influence of the world has affected what we know of history today. With also acknowledging the different perspectives of them is important for it balances out shared and personal knowledge because without enough emphasis on personal knowledge it can result in having only the personal experiences of people and does not look at knowledge beyond them into gaining a wider knowledge of the world making it bias.. Biasing could lead one to accept or deny the truth of a claim and not on the strength of the arguments in support of the claim themselves of which could risk losing the important links between the areas of knowledge. Many want an ideal balance of 50:50, but since the knowledge that is gained through what the world mostly knows about is shared and added on

page 5

with new information makes it more than personal knowledge. However, the changes in new information might be slow or sudden causing a dramatic change of what we already know of. Furthermore, it becomes difficult to examine personal knowledge without acknowledging that as individuals we are embedded in a social web and that there are changes in response due to our own experiences of which are viewed through the work of art back then and still to today.

The way art is being used in the picture, represents and gives a message to the world in both social and political aspects that women have the strength and power to make their voices heard no matter what criticism they would receive. They were willing to get their point across in their want for equality and rights, even though it took them some time to make it happen as it started from the bottom with the opening of the first public high schools for girls in New York and Boston in 1826 to the top with giving women the right to vote on August the 18th of 1920(Topic Timeline). With these being great examples of the experiences of the many who worked together as one to fight for a common goal through life has educated our world today in what we as women decide to do with our lives, as shared knowledge shapes our personal knowledge and our society today.

Works Cited

"Areas of Knowledge." *Theory of Knowledge Guide*. Web. 8 Feb. 2015.

<https://ibpublishing.ibo.org/exist/rest/app/tsm.xml?doc=d_0_tok_gui_1304_1_e&part=2&chapter=4>.

History, Art & Archives, U.S. House of Representatives, Office of the Historian, Women in

Congress, 1917–2006. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 2007.

"The

Women's Rights Movement, 1848–1920,

"<http://history.house.gov/Exhibitions-and-Publications/WIC/Historical-Essays/No-Lady/Women's-Rights/> (February 08, 2015)

"We Can Do It!" *National Museum of American History*. N.p., n.d. Web. 11 Feb. 2015.

"Topic Timeline." *Topic Timeline*. 1 Jan. 2014. Web. 8 Feb. 2015.

<<http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/timelines/timelinetopics.cfm?tltopicid=3>>.

"Ways of Knowing." *Theory of Knowledge Guide*. Web. 8 Feb. 2015.

<https://ibpublishing.ibo.org/exist/rest/app/tsm.xml?doc=d_0_tok_gui_1304_1_e&part=2&chapter=4>.