

Knowledge questions are at the heart of every ToK essay. You need one... and it should be good!

You need at least 3... that includes a mix of AoK and WoK. But choose wisely! You don't want a run-of-the mill choice, and you don't want to use any of them incorrectly.

Aspect	Level 5 Excellent 10-9	Level 4 Very Good 8-7	Level 3 Satisfactory 6-5	Level 2 Basic 4-3	Level 1 Elementary 2-1	Irrelevant 0
Understanding Knowledge Questions	There is sustained focus on knowledge questions connected to the prescribed title and are well chosen— developed with investigation of different perspectives and linked effectively to areas of knowledge and/or ways of knowing.	There is a focus on knowledge questions connected to the prescribed title— developed with acknowledgement of different perspectives and linked to areas of knowledge and/or ways of knowing.	There is focus on some knowledge questions connected to the prescribed title— with some development and linking to areas of knowledge and/or ways of knowing.	Some knowledge questions that are connected to the prescribed title are considered, but the essay is largely descriptive with superficial or limited links to areas of knowledge and/or ways of knowing.	The essay has only very limited relevance to the prescribed title—relevant points are descriptive .	The essay does not reach a standard described by levels 1-5 or is not a response to one of the prescribed titles on the list for the current session.
Quality of Analysis [of Knowledge Questions]	Arguments are clear , supported by real-life examples and are effectively evaluated ; counterclaims are extensively explored; implications are drawn.	Arguments are clear , supported by real-life examples and are evaluated ; some counterclaims are identified and explored .	Some arguments are clear and supported by examples ; some counterclaims are identified .	Arguments are offered but are unclear and/or not supported by effective examples.	Arguments are offered but are unclear and/or not supported by effective examples .	Assertions are offered but not supported.

To do it well you need to :

- Develop
- Focus
- Be clear
- Identify
- Explore
- Analyze
- Create links between AoK & WoK

DUDE! You're a high-schooler. You aren't supposed to know everything, so don't purport that you do. But you need to admit that there are other opinions.

Just like the green bubble... knowing that there is a perspective other than yours is a good idea. Beware of your own weaknesses as a knower. And show some humility.

Keep in mind that ToK is supposed to be about you! The examiner will want to know what that you're wrestling with the prompt (because you are...duh). But they want to know real situations that help you identify with the prompt. So... avoid hypothetical situations ("say Johnny and Jenna break up..."), avoid cliché'd examples (1+1=2, anything Hitler, Christianity vs. atheism), and capitalize on the knower's perspective.