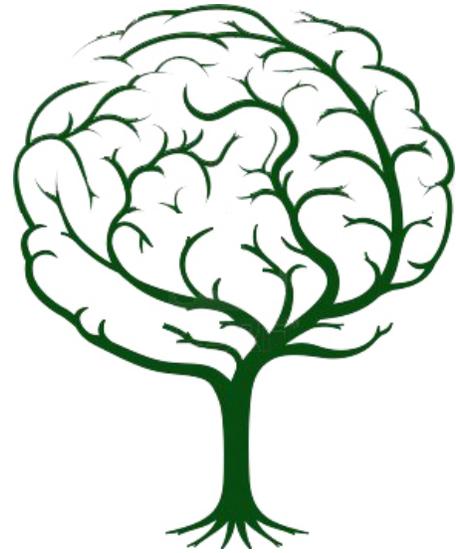


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Proximity to Knowledge

Just because we've heard it or seen it,
doesn't mean we actually know it.

Think of it this way...

Knowledge is a familiarity with someone or something, which can include facts, information, descriptions, or skills acquired through experience and or formal or informal education.



The study of knowledge is epistemology. Epistemology focuses on partial knowledge. In most instances, it is not possible to understand an information domain exhaustively. Our knowledge is always *incomplete* or partial.

Popular culture may lead us to believe that because we saw it on T.V. or YouTube or read it on the Internet, or someone told us, *that* passes for knowledge.

Qualifying our own knowledge of a subject is important to our adult journey. Especially in the workplace. Using a more scientific approach to acquiring knowledge of a particular subject is key to excelling in life and for better, more informed decision-making. To be termed scientific, a method of inquiry is based on gathering observable and measurable evidence subject to specific principles of reasoning and experimentation.

Don't mistake proximity to information as knowledge. Just because it is close at hand through the Internet, or we "think" we understand don't stop there. Do your homework. Comparing and contrasting facts in evidence from credible sources helps us make better informed decisions.

Better informed decisions help us make up a thought process based on evidence rather than hearsay. Hearsay, gossip or partial information can be dangerous and just plain wrong.

It is important not simply to seek out opinions that confirm our notions or beliefs to satisfy emotional needs. But to objectify evidence and make more informed decisions.

It is incumbent on each of us, as a success-oriented person, to know the difference between fact and opinion. It is important to verify facts in evidence for ourselves, using credible relevant sources, so we may call it our own knowledge.