TOK Chapter Homework Instructions & Examples

(Mr. Ferlazzo's TOK Class)

***1. What do you think are the three most important concepts in the chapter and why you think they are important? Include examples that DO NOT come out of the textbook.***

EXAMPLE: Beliefs are not necessarily better than knowledge - they are on a flat continuum and not on a pyramid. There are good reasons to hold on to beliefs sometimes even if there is not valid and reliable evidence - faith, for example. However, it is important to recognize when something is a belief and when something is knowledge so we can then make informed decisions. For example, my belief is that humanity is naturally good, and I agree with the saying that "what goes around comes around." So I try to be a "giver" and not a "taker" when it comes to working with, and helping, others. I cannot say with certainty, however, that "what goes around, comes around, so it's different from the knowledge that two plus two equals four. Unlike the knowledge of that math equation - which is true all the time - people will have to make a determination based on their own experiences whether "what goes around comes around."

***2. Pick an important sentence that had an impact on you and explain why it stood out. Connect it to an example that DOES NOT come out of the textbook.***

The sentence I picked is "Since we live in a world in which there are few black and white certainties, you will probably have to rely more on judgment than proof in deciding what to believe."

This sentence stood out to me because it reminded me of what we discussed in the classroom about an "opinion" being something you come up with on your own and "judgment" being something you come up with after discussing with others and reflecting on it.

In class one day, Mr. Ferlazzo asked us a question about the elections, and asked us to think about it and write a few sentences down about what we thought. Then, he had us share with a small group of classmates. After listening to them, I changed my mind.

***3. Choose something new you learned from the textbook that you can apply in another class or out-of-school. Give an example of how you would use it. This can be a concept you already shared in the two previous questions as long as your example of how you would apply it in other class or out-of-school is new.***

Though it should be obvious to me, I haven't always paid much attention to the importance of "evidence" when teachers tell me things in class or when I read stuff on the Internet. So, for example, I'm not just going to accept everything my History teacher tells me - I'm not going to question everything, but now and then I'll ask him for what evidence is there for what he is saying. I'll also look a little more closely for evidence when I read articles online.

**4. Draw something that represents something you think is an important concept from the chapter (it can be something you already mentioned in answers to previous questions). Describe your drawing, what it represents and how it represents the concept.**