

KNOWLEDGE

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Knowledge is, as I see it, an understanding and comprehension of the information we as human beings are constantly bombarded with. I chose this word because I enjoy gaining knowledge for myself, and I wanted to learn more about this word.

I have learned many things about knowledge, including, for example, how to accurately define it. I found it interesting that there were so many definitions for the word. There were also many resources and publications that used the word “knowledge”.

Knowledge can be defined in many ways. According to the dictionary, knowledge is defined as the following:

“The quality of knowing, familiarity, awareness, or understanding gained through experience or study, the sum or range of what has been perceived, discovered, or learned, learning; erudition; teachers of great knowledge, specific information about something, carnal knowledge” (“Knowledge”).

“The quality of knowing” is the most basic definition. I like this because it is short, sweet, and to the point. The etymology of the word “knowledge” shows that the word came from the Middle English term “knoulech”. Some synonyms listed in the thesaurus are “known facts, ideas, skill, education, erudition, instruction, learning, scholarship, science” (“Knowledge”).

As I was searching about knowledge, I came across some quotes. Two of my favorites were “Imagination is more important than knowledge” (“Quotation Details”), by Albert Einstein, and “This is the bitterest pain among men, to have much knowledge but no power” (“Quotation

Details”), by Herodotus. Einstein, known throughout the world for his knowledge, is telling us that he valued his imagination more than his knowledge. Herodotus was an ancient Greek historian and traveler. He was explaining that knowledge is no good if one has no power to use one’s knowledge. Both quoted people make valid points, and I agree with them. Aside from things people said, famous books use “knowledge” too.

The Bible uses the word “knowledge” in some of its passages. For example, the Bible uses the word when it says:

“And the Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed. And out of the ground made the Lord God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil. And a river went out of Eden to water the garden; and from thence it was parted, and became into four heads.” (Genesis 2:8-10)

In these Bible verses, it speaks of the tree of knowledge in the garden of Eden. “Knowledge” is used every day in writings and publications.

Newspapers refer to knowledge in their articles. For example, an article from January 1st, 2005 is titled “Craft could have Deep Impact on space knowledge” (Robbins). The article explained how a spacecraft, Deep Impact, would provide a view of the inside of a comet by drilling into the surface. Newspapers are a good place to look for new breakthroughs and technological advancements (discovered as a result of someone’s knowledge), but magazines often give information that could relate directly to the reader.

Magazines also speak of knowledge. An article from July 2004 was named “Uncommon Knowledge” and spoke of the intuition of bike riders (“Uncommon Knowledge”). The actual

word is only used in the title, but the content still speaks of knowledge. It speaks of knowledge gained by *experience*. Unlike the commonly referred to knowledge learned through academic studies, this type of knowledge is purely coincidental and determined by where one is and when. In addition to magazines and newspapers, I found other sources to find out about knowledge.

Interviews can express how the word “knowledge” is used today. In an interview with Joseph Mullikin, he told me what knowledge meant to him. To quote him, he said, “I don’t think knowledge is strictly academic, but [one] can gain knowledge through experience and through schooling...” (Mullikin). In other words, experience and schooling can play a key role in the obtainment of knowledge. Another person was interviewed, too.

Interviewing more people can give a wider range of views. So I interviewed Kathleen Bradshaw, and she said, “Knowledge is gained by continuing to learn – something [one] should strive to gain all [one’s] life. [One] can never have complete knowledge...” (Bradshaw). To me this means that throughout one’s life, one will continue to learn. One will never have too much knowledge, nor will one obtain complete knowledge of everything. I tend to agree with her. Her ideas and other previously expressed ideas in books and other resources were a good source for gaining knowledge about “knowledge”.

This project, in my opinion, is relatively easy. It took a lot of time, but it *is* possible to complete! The main difficulty I encountered was formatting the citations, both in the text and in the Works Cited page. Other difficulties I encountered included finding sources and writing enough in each paragraph. Most other big research projects that I have done were a lot harder than this one was.

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