

Homework 2

Question 1

Write your major takeaways in bullet points:

- It's essential to challenge and test beliefs, especially in the face of conflicting evidence.
- Adapting to new information and changing one's mind when presented with new facts is a sign of intellectual honesty.
- Confirmation bias is a significant obstacle in both science and politics.
- The internet offers both an echo chamber and a platform for challenging one's beliefs.
- A scientific approach to public discourse can lead to more informed and constructive debates.

Question 2

Find an example of today's U.S. politics relevant to the speaker's (Tom Chatfield) arguments and articulate the problem of your chosen example in a short paragraph (5-ish sentences).

Today's U.S. political landscape often mirrors the challenges highlighted by Tom Chatfield. The polarized nature of political discourse makes it difficult for individuals to entertain opposing views, leading to a confirmation bias where people only consume information that aligns with their beliefs. This behavior is evident in how different media outlets cater to specific political ideologies, often presenting one-sided perspectives that reinforce viewers' preconceived notions. The challenge lies in encouraging a more scientific mindset in politics, where claims are rigorously tested, and beliefs are adaptable based on new, reliable evidence. Such an approach could enhance public discourse, reduce polarization, and promote a more informed and engaged citizenry.