1. "Of the things which may be brought within the sphere of the doubtful"
   1. Foundational Beliefs that are doubted
      1. Senses
      2. Dreams versus being awake
         1. Dreams "deceive" him into thinking the dream is real
         2. Whether or not life is all an illusion, there must be something real the life is an illusion of.
            1. Like a painter
      3. Belief in God
         1. God could be to him a figment of his imagination
      4. Any belief can be doubted, but most commonly held beliefs are more likely to be true than false
         1. "they really are, i.e. opinions in some measure doubtful, as I have just shown, and at the same time highly probable"
         2. D
   2. Strategy against prejudice
      1. By accepting "contrary belief" and his initial belief, he hopes to not be biased towards any one way of thinking
      2. Descartes therefore puts aside his belief in God and that his senses are truthful observations of reality
      3. Descartes therefore begins with the premise that there is a supernatural evil deity that deceives Descartes
2. "Of the Nature of the Human Mind; and that it is more easily known than the Body."
   1. Start
      1. Senses are false
      2. Body and movement are false
   2. Progression
      1. The fact he is being deceived means he exists -> "I exist"
      2. He is "a thing which thinks"
         1. Thinking can never happen apart from himself
         2. Thinking is required for dreams and illusions

1. Understanding external bodies
   1. Objects are known by being understood in the mind
      1. Wax may not be sensed in the same way after it melts, but it is still wax (1-11)
         1. Our minds think the wax before and after is the same because of our understanding of its potential and its basic components
2. "Of God: that He exists"
   1. Although most thoughts are true in and of themselves, the understandings of the objects in thoughts can be false
   2. Do things exist outside our minds?
      1. Reasons for no (1-14)
         1. Any immediate understanding of an object in nature is understood impulsively
            1. You do not have to think about heat from a fire to believe heat from a fire exists
            2. Some impulsive actions are bad
            3. We should not rest our belief in external objects because of impulsive understanding
         2. Understanding of an object can go against our will does not mean it is an external object
            1. Even though seeing something against our will, such as a murder, seems to be presented externally outside our minds, there could be something inside our brains that come up with ideas opposing our will.
         3. Objects and the ideas of the object can be very different
            1. What we perceive the sun to be isn't exactly what the sun is based on scientific research
      2. Reasons for yes (1-15)
         1. There is a difference between thoughts that represent external things and thoughts that are not based on external things
         2. There cannot be an effect without a cause -> the effect of thoughts about possibly external things must be caused by something that carries the reality of the external thing in question.
            1. The reality of the thing means it stands by itself, not relying on the mind for existing
            2. Thoughts are like paintings of the real thing, they are derived from reality but may not perfectly capture it
         3. Any ideas not agreeable with oneself and his experiences with reality means he or she possesses an idea from another being.
            1. Proves there are others
         4. Although he reached the conclusion that things exist outside our mind, he believes not all ideas are true
            1. False

An idea that represents something non existent

* + - * 1. True

May never be captured by the mind

* + 1. The fact that the idea of God with his characteristics of all powerful, perfect, and infinite exists proves He exists
       1. Since the characteristics of God do not seem to "proceed" from himself, Decartes believes that the idea of God must be true
          1. No finite thing can have infinite ideas without there being something infinite to exist
       2. God necessarily exists
       3. Counter Arguments
          1. Perhaps the idea of God is false

Just as cold means something to Descartes, the idea of God is "real" to him

* + - * 1. Maybe the idea of God originates from the self

This premise would require the self to be able to access the divine the idea states from within the self. People cannot access the divine, because even though their knowledge can increase infinitely, it will never reach infinite knowledge. We always have potential

* + 1. Where does existence of the self originate?
       1. The self
          1. Then all ideas of perfection requiring a reality of perfection would mean the self would be able to be perfect.
          2. The self is unable to attain perfection.
          3. Wrong!
          4. Even though one could say that he or she have always existed as he or she exists in the moment, Descartes argues that if that was true there would be an idea of it in his mind.
       2. Parents
          1. Since Descartes has an idea of the characteristics of a god, the parents being the cause to Decartes would not work, since the cause would be less perfect than the idea residing in the effect, Decartes.
  1. Med IV - Of True and False
     1. Why would a perfect being create imperfect beings?
        1. Regardless of the individual, maybe the whole of creation is perfect.
     2. Source of Errors
        1. Limited Knowledge
        2. Unlimited Free Will
        3. We can make misinformed choices
     3. Source of Truth
        1. Unlimited Free Will
        2. Restrict Free Will to one's own knowledge
     4. Why God is not to blame
        1. Humans do not deserve intelligence at all; limited intelligence is better than no intelligence
        2. Even though the will given to mankind causes issues when paired with limited knowledge, free will could never be limited (either we have it or we don't). Free will is better than being robots. Therefore, it is good to have free will.
        3. Errors or sins are caused by mankind's use of free will in areas he lacks proper knowledge.
        4. Although possible for God to create individuals with perfect but limited knowledge of all things pertaining to one's free will, Descartes thinks it is more probable that the whole creation is more "perfect" when the parts are imperfect.
  2. Med VI
     1. Imagination vs Intellect
        1. Since imagination is not required to exist, imagination most likely depends on something external to the mind.
     2. Of the Body
        1. Assume body exists
           1. All external objects sensed by body are not sensed according to the mind's will; they appear out of control of the mind
           2. The ideas from the objects seemed better, more lively than those created from imagination; most likely not a product of the mind.
        2. His doubts of the body existing
           1. Anything felt while awake can be felt or sensed while dreaming.
           2. He might be made to be deceived by nature
        3. My thoughts
           1. If those senses are not under control of your thoughts, which you believe to be the essence of your existence, then regardless of its source, it isn't a part of what you define yourself to be. It could be a faculty in your brain that seems to be apart of you, but only if you define you as a physical being, not if you define yourself as that what you control.
        4. His proof
           1. He knows differences of things are what separate them
           2. Therefore, since he has a unique idea of a body that is not thinking and simultaneously a mind that thinks, he concludes the differences in ideas confirms a separation of the body from the mind.
        5. Clock and The Sick Man
           1. Broken clock follows nature
           2. Sick man drinks when it isn't helpful for him
        6. He is not being deceived in general
           1. Nerves sometimes don't relay right information, but most of the time they give brain feelings that benefit the body.

A pain in the hand of burning instructs brain to remove hand

* + - 1. Differences between Mind and Body
         1. Mind is indivisible
         2. Body is divisible