Reflection 1: October 15th

My first thought is that practically everything is change, and progress is the subset of change that is positive. The hard part would be to quantify whether a change is positive, neutral, or negative – I think I’ll quantify it based on a change’s contribution to field knowledge. I’m definitely going to use the AOK of natural science in my essay because technology and science have undergone huge changes in recent centuries, and quite a bit of it has been widely regarded as progress. The other AOK that I’m thinking of using is human science, because it’s both similar to and distinct from natural science – it’s science too, but is based on a different set of methodologies. I think that “progress” will have to be defined differently in these AOKs, which may complicate my argument. The biggest difficulty for me will be constructing the methodology to differentiate whether a change fits the definition of progress.

Reflection 2: (November 21st)

After the initial outline, I realized that I had a huge misunderstanding of the human science AOK – I had been defining progress in human science from an utilitarian perspective, but such an idea is not related to knowledge at all and also leans closer to ethics than human science. I’m hence shifting my methodologies for human science closer to those of natural science and streamlining it towards pursuit of knowledge. I can still draw parallels between the AOKs in my essay, but I don’t think I can find real life examples that apply to both AOKs anymore. Additionally, I learned that with the sciences, personal knowledge does not contribute to change or progress – only alterations to field knowledge matter. Next, I learned that the counterclaims I had planned were overused; I’m striving to come up with more creative arguments, but I don’t have much in mind yet. At the same time, I just recognized that the expert quotes supporting the refutation for my counterclaims do not align with my argument, so I need to find new ones.

Reflection 3: (December 29th)

My teacher and I talked after I wrote my first draft, and my teacher affirmed that I was on the right track. However, my essay did not express all of my ideas in a direct and concise manner – I was often reserved around referencing the prompt, and some parts of my writing went on tangents and did not actually support my argument coherently. Hence, I am rewording and reorganizing a considerable chunk of my essay. While playing around with diction, I decided to further specify my definitions of change and progress – change is any alteration of knowledge or the way knowledge is applied, while progress is the positive subset of change that actually adds something new to field knowledge. I’m also continuing to draw as many parallels as I can between my AOKs of human science and natural science – they are both science and use the scientific method, but are based on very different ways of knowing and explore very different concepts.