Essay four: “facts” and intelligence as we know them

**Chapter four text-reading:**

The definition of the word “fact” is introduced in this chapter; the example of the earth being round is used as an example of a fact that is backed up by a vast amount of information making it undeniable. Since this is the general belief, the majority of civilization accepts this but there are some who still question. Aside from fact, we have beliefs. An interesting example of a belief would be the controversy around the inside of area-51. Many people (including people who claimed to have worked or entered the facility) claim that there are indeed aliens and top-secret material on the inside that the general public have never laid eyes on. But since there are many people who deny these claims and suggest that it is nothing more than a top-secret military base, it is not taken in as a fact; only as a belief. Another popular belief is that there are other forms of intelligent life beyond earth; we just have not discovered it or them yet. I feel that because this is a belief and not a fact, it creates a grey area for what exactly we know and belief about the universe itself. We know for sure that there are numerous solar systems, stars, planets and many other findings. The one thing that remains debatable however is the existence of intelligent life somewhere out there in the universe. The Bloom’s taxonomy list I feel is very crucial for A.I. (artificial intelligence) to achieving the intellect of humans that do not make critical mistakes. I feel that areas 2, 5 and 6 are what distinguish us from any other species; A.I.’s lack of these three areas are what keeps it from making breakthroughs in our world of science. I do not feel that there are any other practical alternatives since these items are the cornerstones of what human intelligence is. While A.I. has 1 and 3, which has lead to important discoveries already in our world of science, I feel the missing criteria for the list are what keep us as a society from bringing our abstract ideas into reality. If we can somehow integrate these three missing areas, along with increasing performance in the 4th, then we will have intelligence that does not make human error since it has been programmed not to.

**Article on the discussion of different sciences:**

This reading helped me to realize two important things about sciences and intelligence: 1.) Many sciences draw principles from other sciences in order to further their depth.

2.) Intelligence in one science does not mean that you have a vast amount of intelligence in others.

An example would be chemistry and biology. Both of these sciences cover vast areas of study; they both are often linked with each other in real-world practicality and in studying course material. And while one person may be very knowledgeable in one of the two, they can lack intelligence greatly about the other area less studied. In terms of understanding the universe more, I feel that it takes more than one particular type of intelligence to have a better concept about how things work on this planet and on others. Thinking about the word “universe”, one might believe that all it would take to have a greater understanding of this would be to study certain sciences such as astronomy, astrophysics and aerospace science. But I believe in order to have the greatest understanding, one would also need to be knowledgeable in others like biology and chemistry as well. With these two, understanding the principles of life like carbon and water, one would be able to determine if other planets are inhabitable and if they could harbor any kind of life. And so, I feel in-order to have a better understanding of the universe in its entirety, one must have intelligence in multiple areas; not just one.

**Stalkers Movie understanding and World on a Wire understanding:**

I believe this film gives the perspective of a man (the stalker) who believed we as humans should seek some sort of spiritual truth about the lives we live. Towards the end of the film, the stalker is lying on his bed and tells the woman “they know they were born with a purpose”. I think this quote speaks to the beliefs of many people. The idea that we all were born with a reason rather than just to exist. The visuals in the film also made me think about how space is a representation of some of the scenery shown. The sand mounds for instance were an example of repetition. In space, we as humans know through observation that space consists of a lot of the same things such as planets, moons, asteroids and stars. While they’re still many unexplored properties of space that we have not discovered, what we have seen seems to be the same things but different sizes, densities and temperatures. World on a Wire gives the perspective of someone trying to break that repetition. I feel this film showing the one mind in the simulation who felt differently gives viewers insight on how breakthroughs within our reality can happen. Not necessarily to think we are living in a simulation, but to question our reality and come up with abstract ideas that allow us to make new findings on earth and in space as well. I feel that it is abstract thinking that goes against the norm which allows to make new advances in discovering new things that we had no idea existed before.

The media along with the reading for chapter 4 all share common themes: what we know as facts and the ideas that we believe in. I feel facts give us as a basis for what we know to be achievable; beliefs allow us the freedom to push towards what is not easily explainable. Beliefs are the ideas that are polarizing. And while some beliefs may not be as easy to prove as others, the ones that we can prove with more research and engineering will allow our society to advance further. I believe that with further advancements to A.I., we will have a better chance at making these advancements further since A.I. can be programmed to think in patterns and learn from previous mistakes.