

# TOK Tell

## Using and finding examples

The TOK essay requires students to support their arguments with specific examples. But what kinds of examples can students use and where can students find these examples?

One great source of examples is students' other DP classes. Read the example below of a "TOK and Tell" activity that a TOK teacher uses to encourage their students to harvest examples from their other DP subject classes.

## TOK Tell

1. The TOK teacher assigns one student per TOK class to **bring a TOK example from one of their other subjects** to the class.
2. Taking no more than a couple of minutes at the start of class, the **student very briefly explains the example and why they chose it.**
3. Ask other **classmates to expand its relevance to TOK.** The example is then **filed in a shared class "Example Bank"**.

The whole activity takes no more than five minutes at the start of each class.

Read the paragraph from a TOK essay below to see how a DP economics student then went on to bring an example he had come across in his economics course into his TOK essay.

The most significant challenge afflicting the human sciences however, is exemplified by Imprimis Pharmecuticals, whose main competitor Turing Pharmaceuticals made headlines in 2015 when their CEO hiked the price of Daraprim, a crucial AIDS drug, by more than 5000%. In direct contradiction to economic theory that focuses on profit maximization, Imprimis decided to offer Daraprim for less than \$1 per pill to lower-income patients. This example highlights the key challenge facing the human sciences – that it is impossible to impose complete rationality and scientific methods onto something as complex as human behaviour and society. But this example also shows that this apparent limitation might not actually be such a negative thing at all, because in the case of Imprimis it meant that they were acting on their ethical values rather than, for example, just following in line with the economic theory of the firm which identifies profit maximization as the sole objective of all firms.