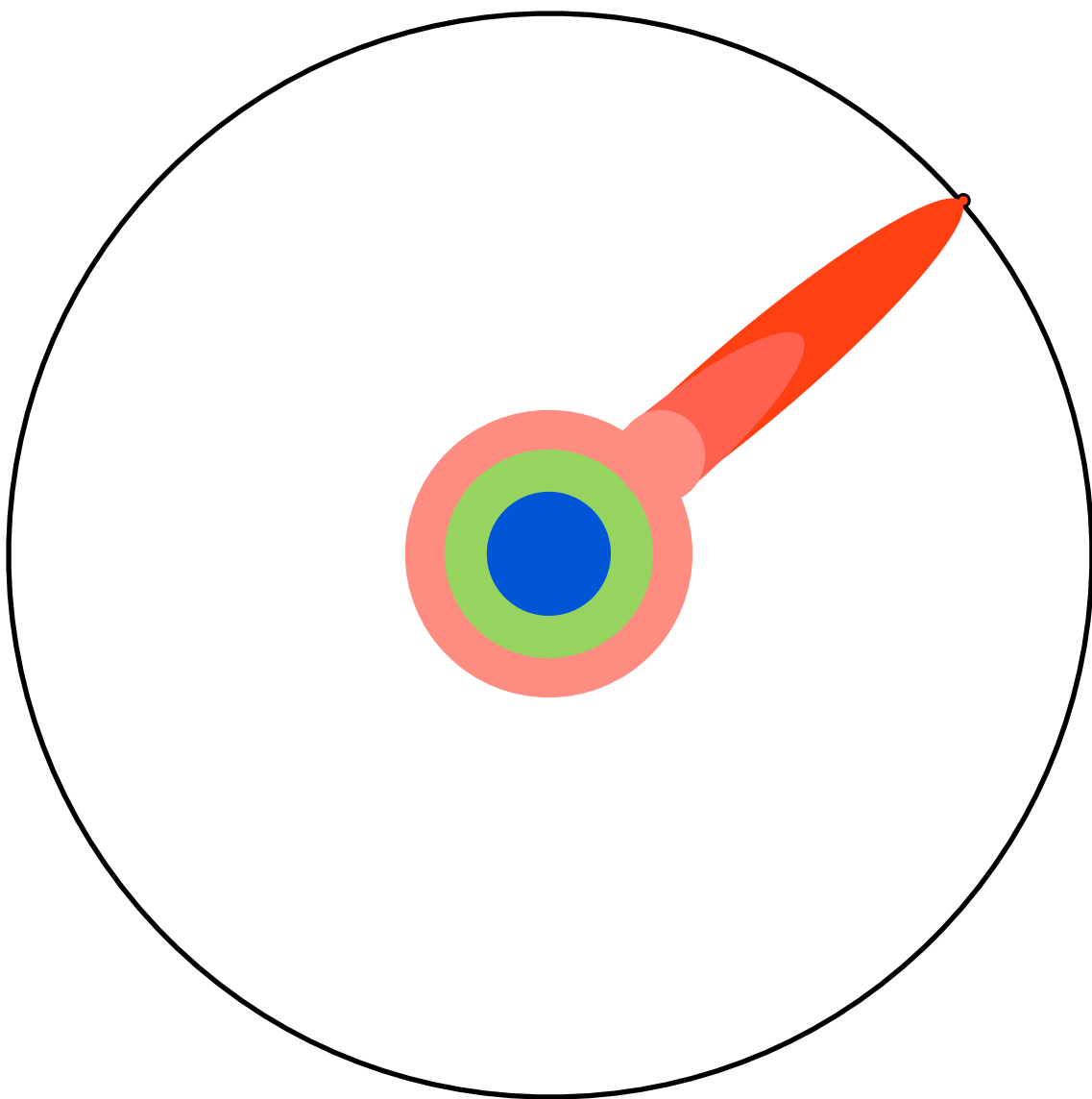


# The Illustrated Guide to a Ph.D.



Matt Might



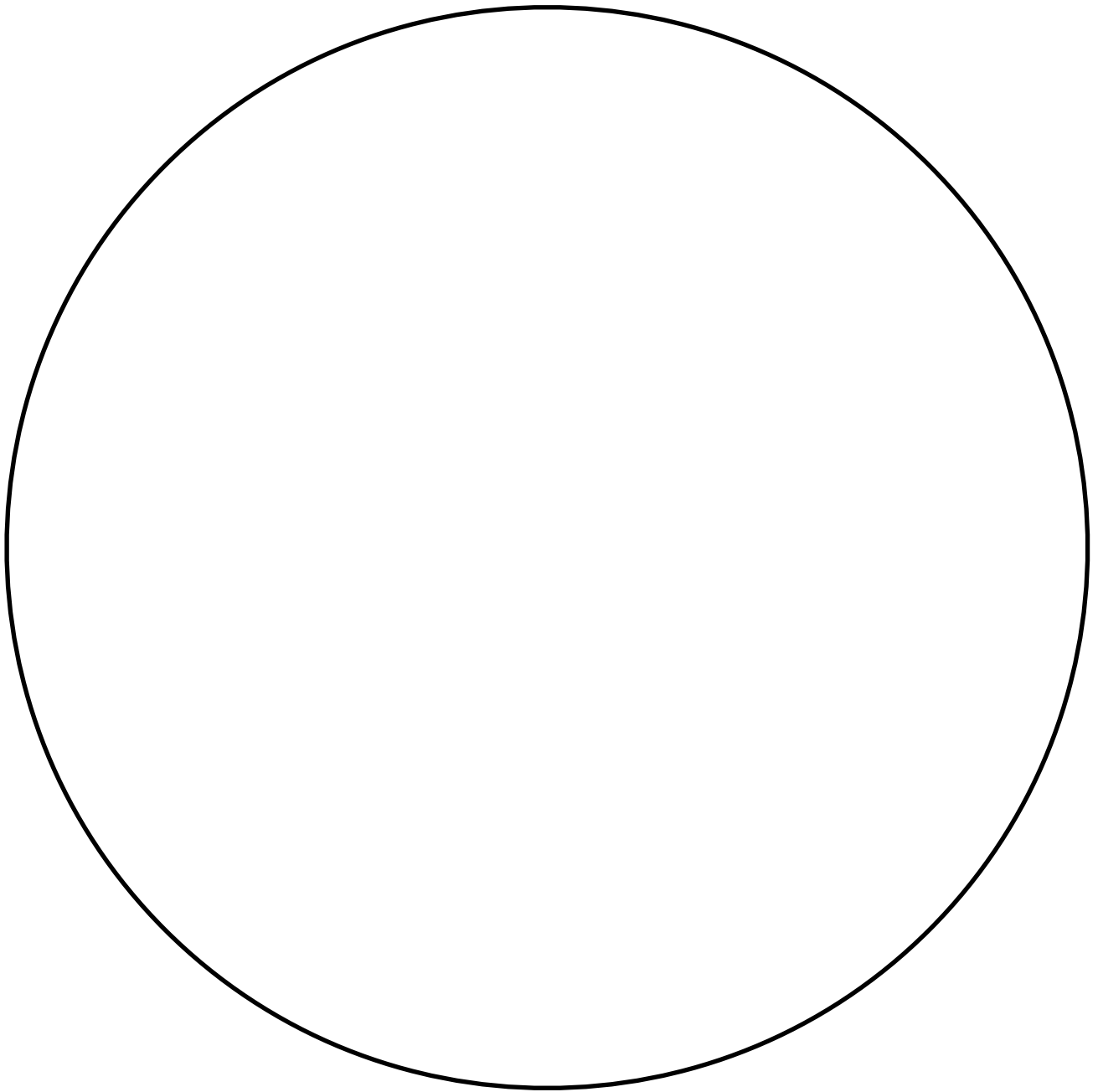
## **Foreword**

Every fall, I explain what a Ph.D. is.

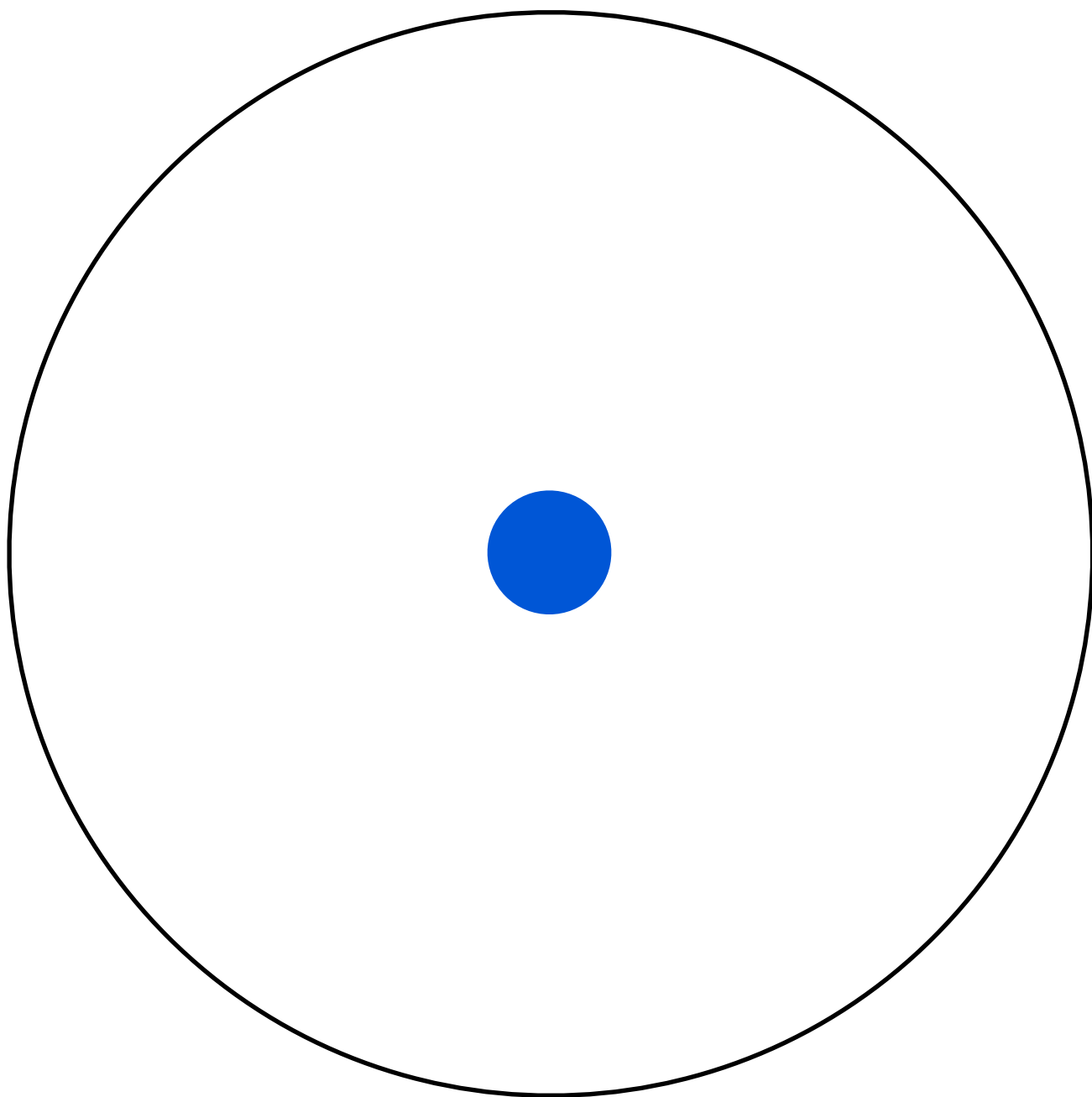
It's hard to describe it in words.

So, I use these pictures.

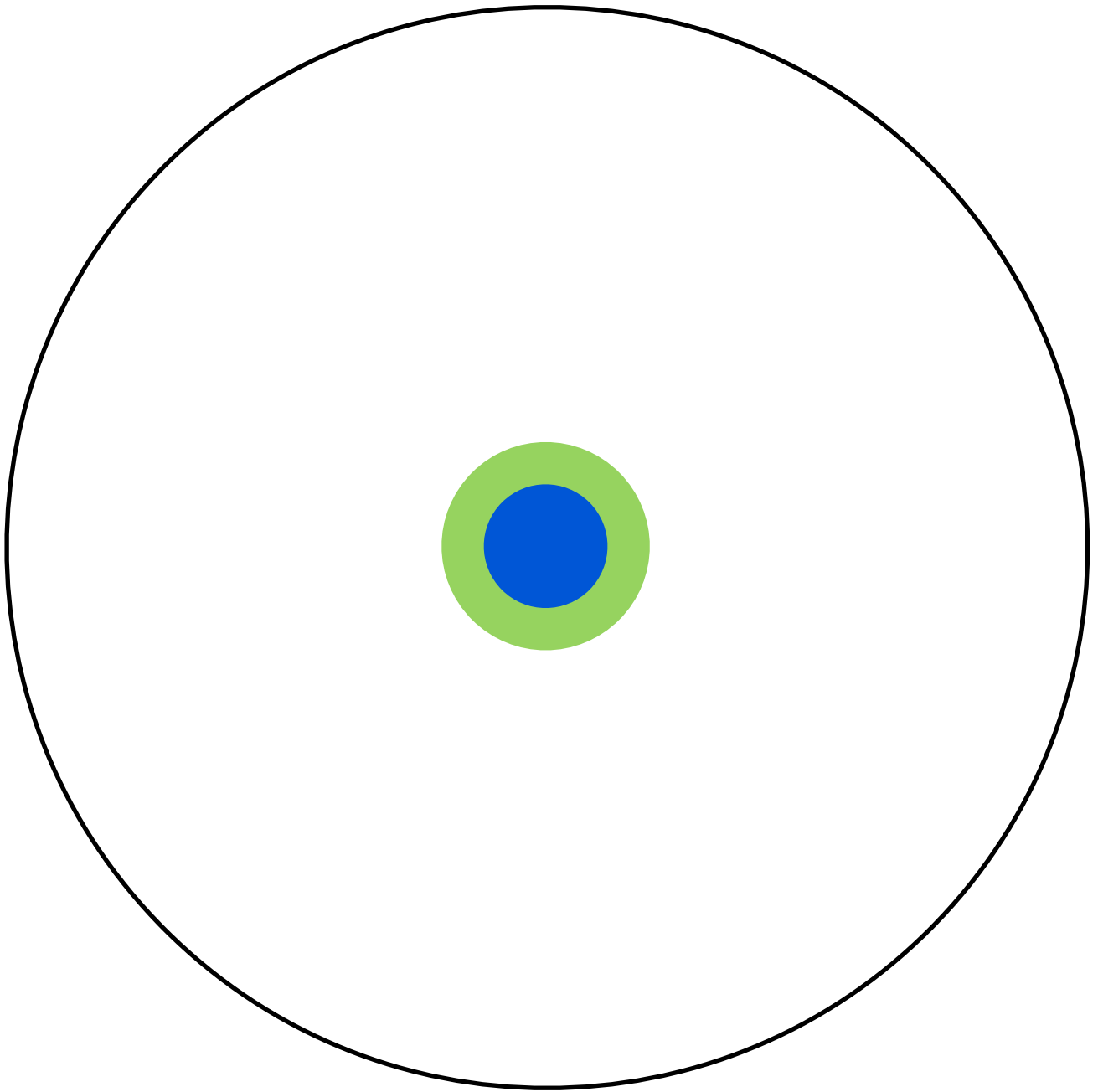
Imagine a circle that contains all of human knowledge.



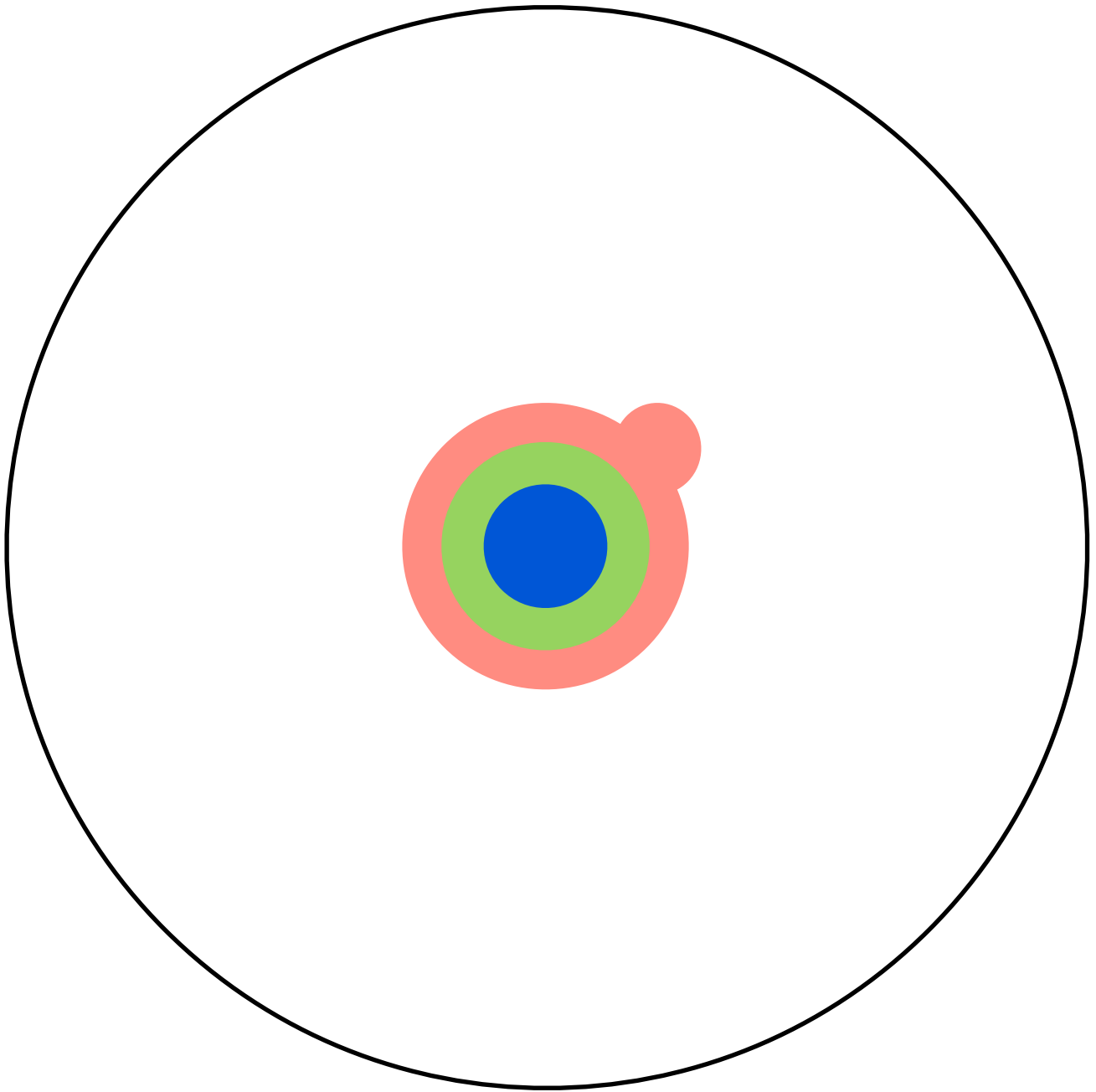
By the time you finish elementary school, you know a little.



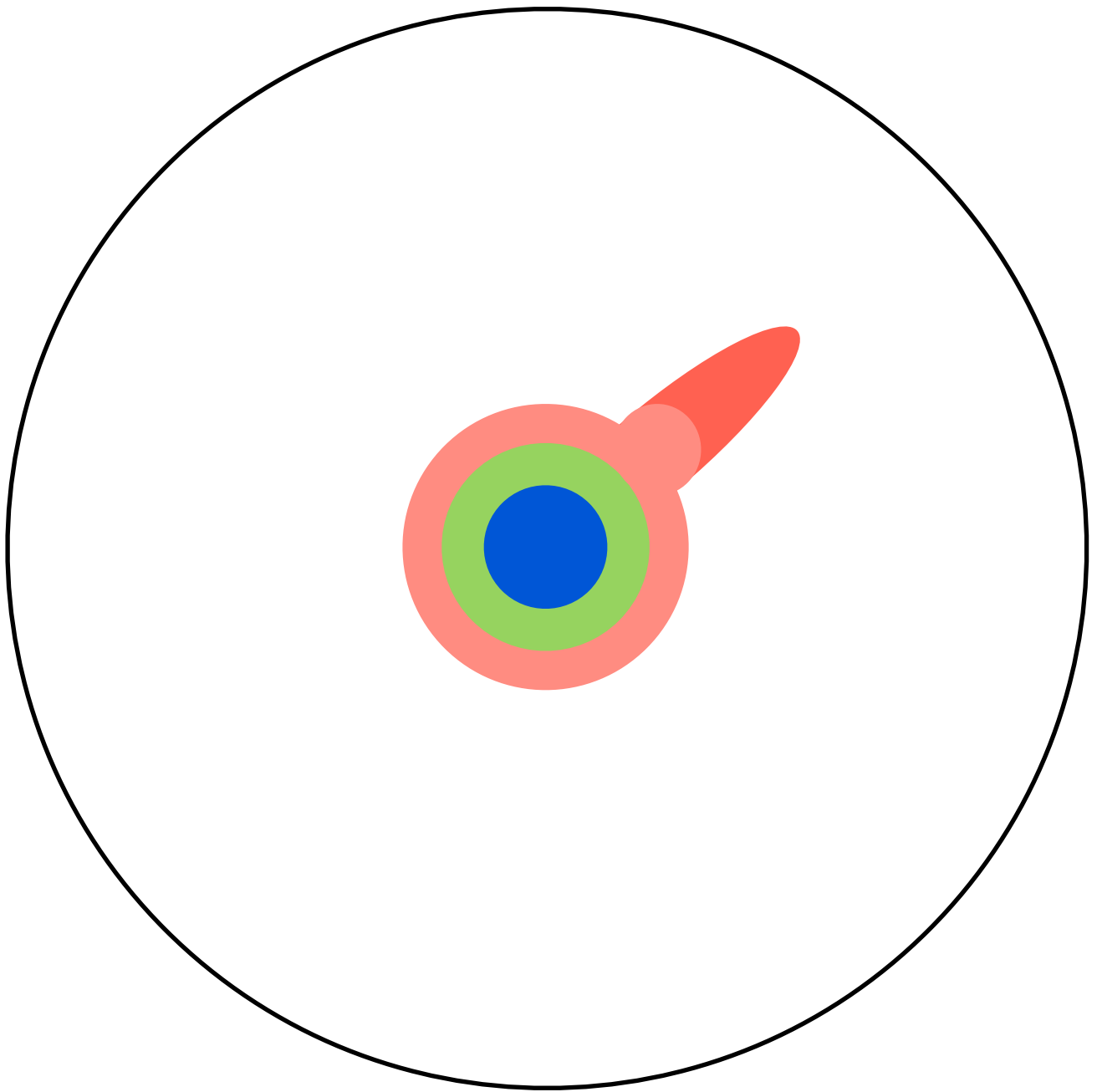
By the time you finish high school, you know a bit more.



With a bachelor's degree, you gain a specialty.

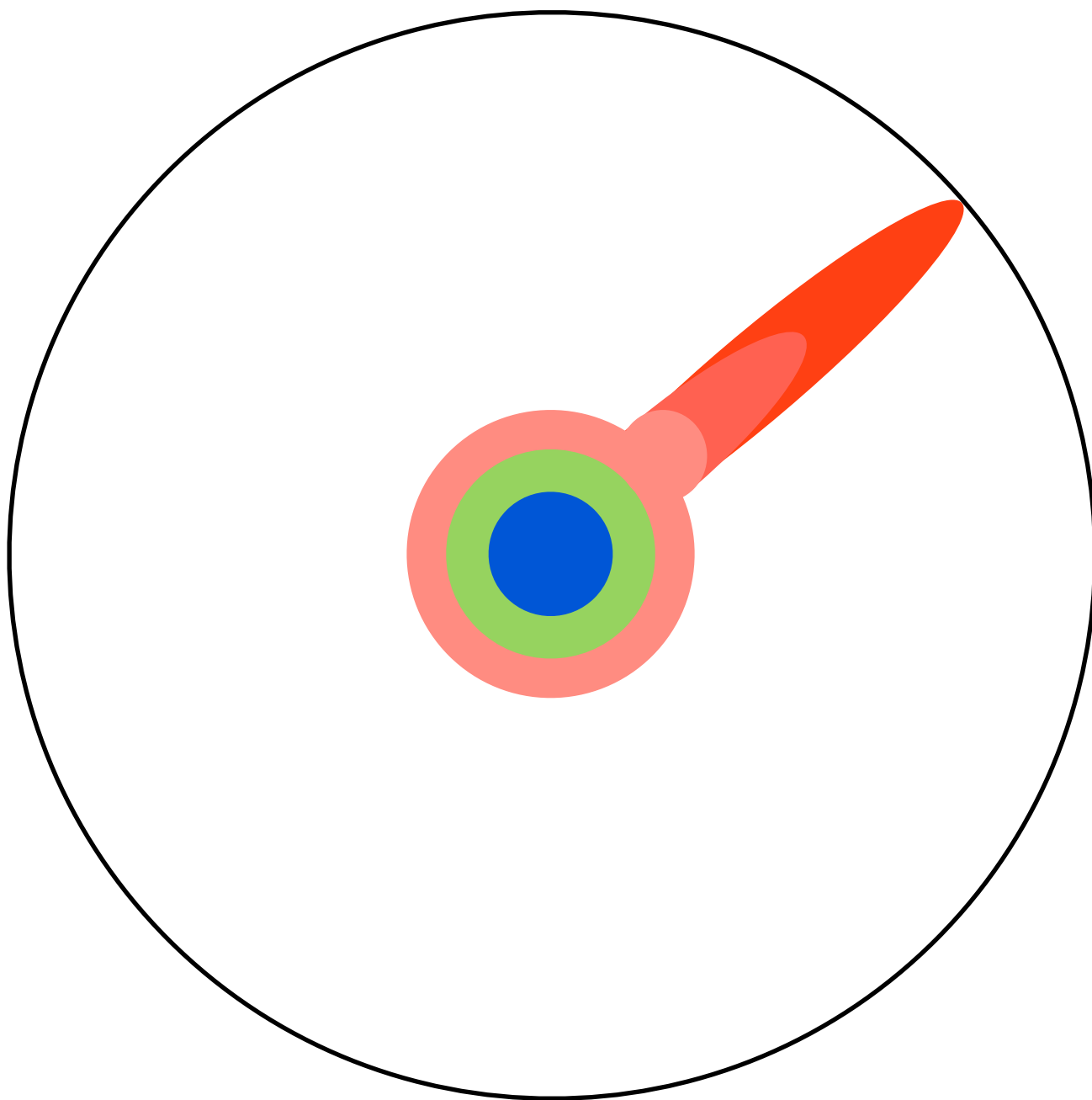


A master's degree deepens that specialty.

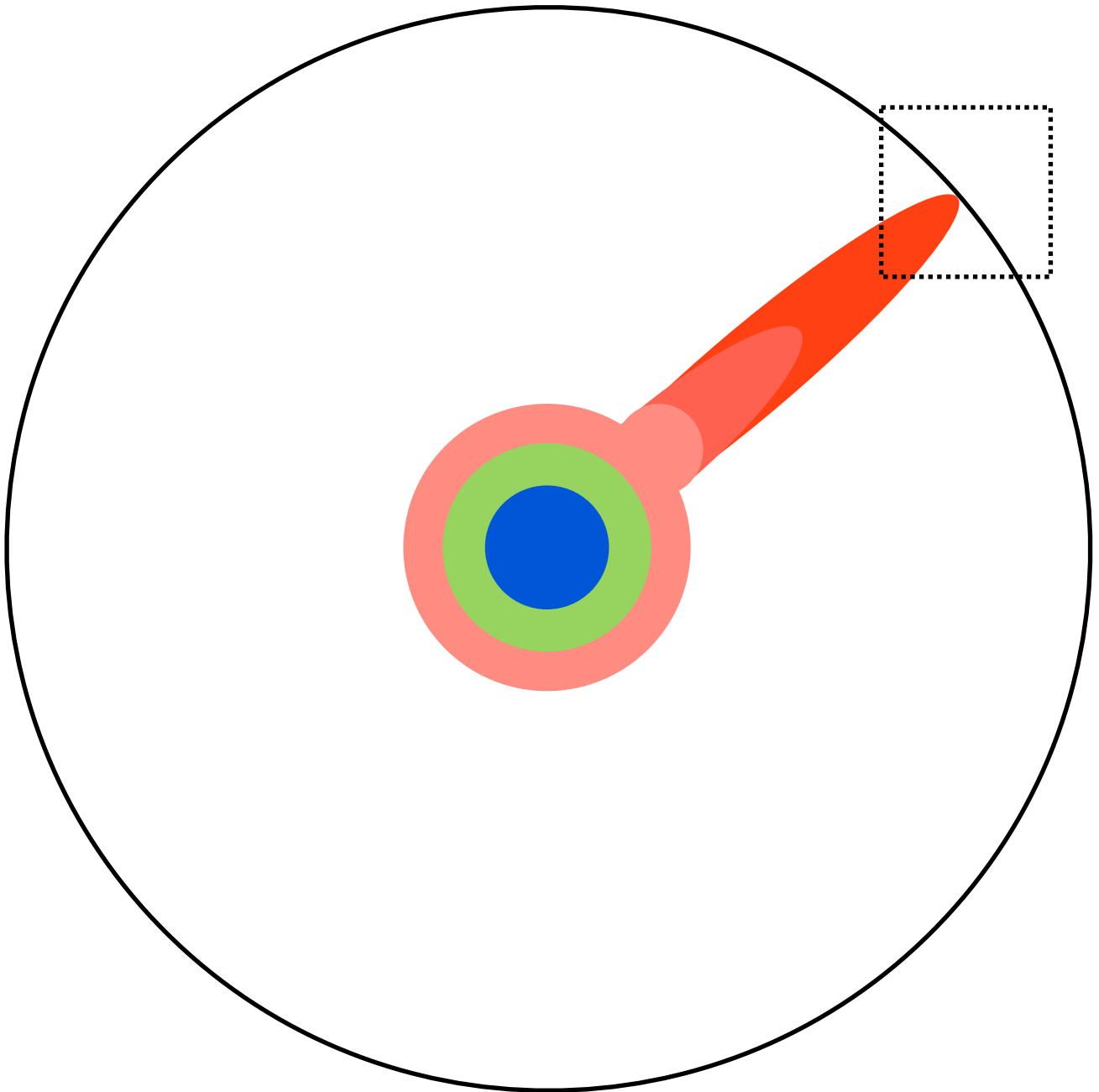




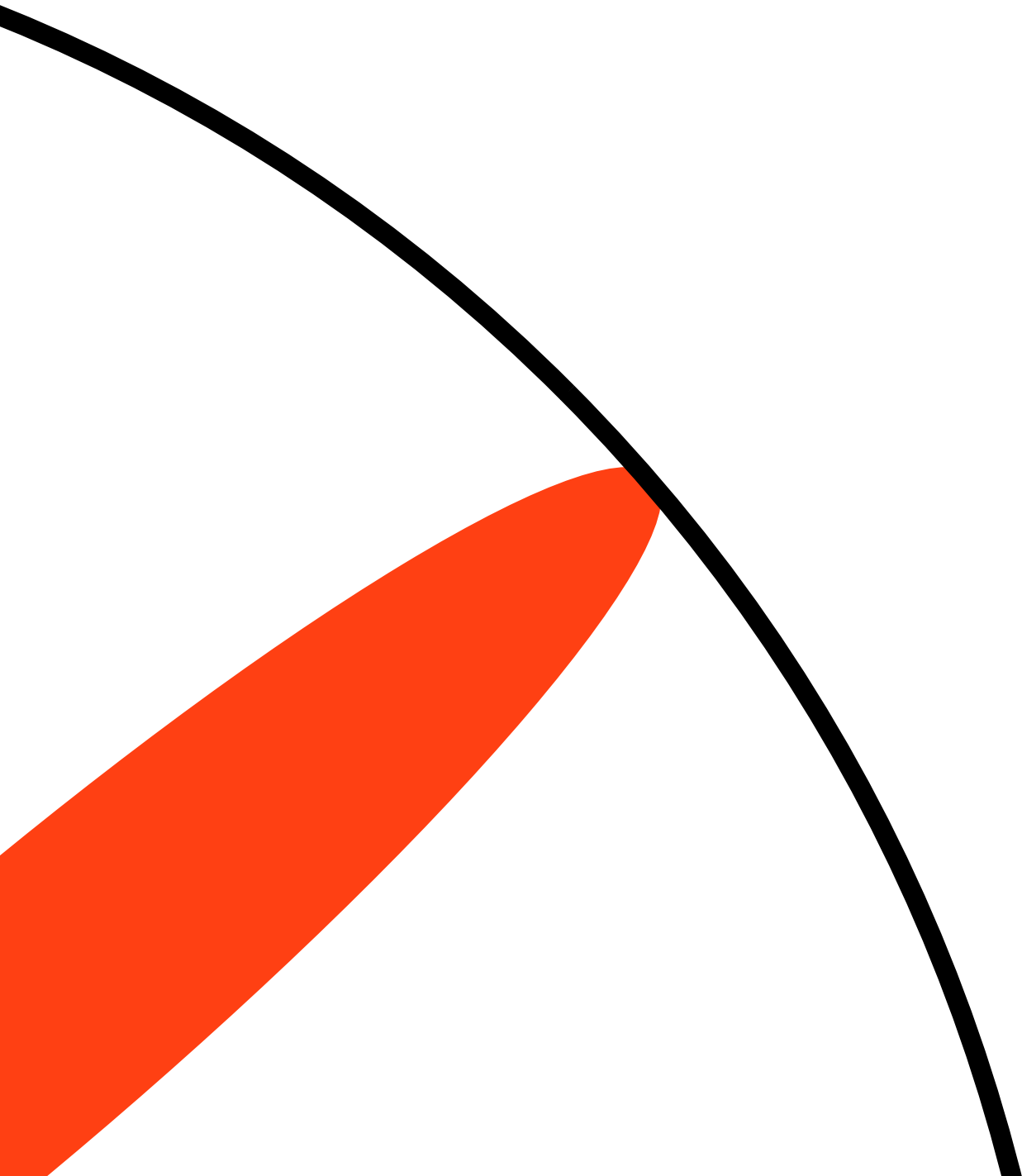
Reading papers takes you to the edge of human knowledge.



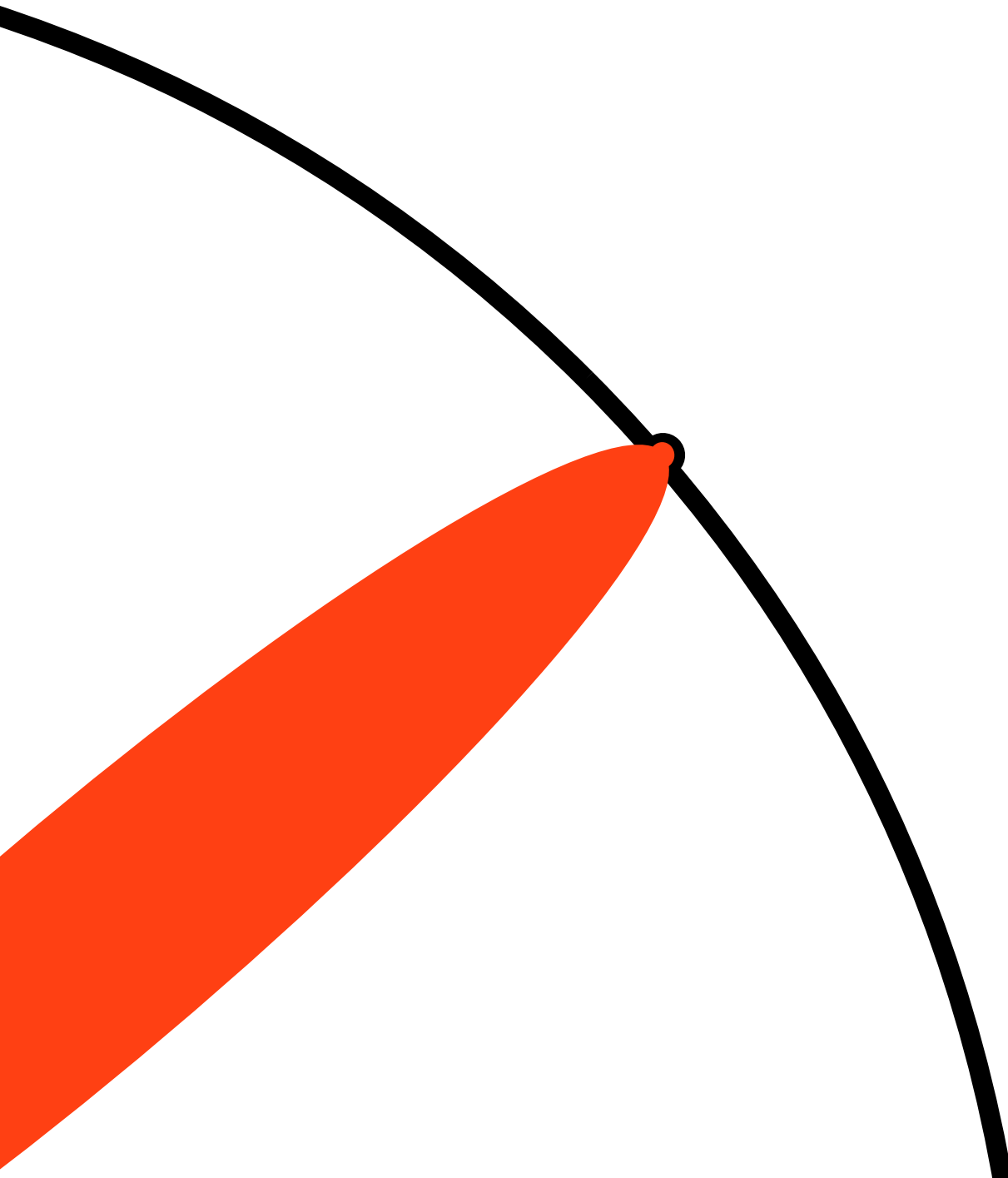
Once you're at the boundary, you focus.



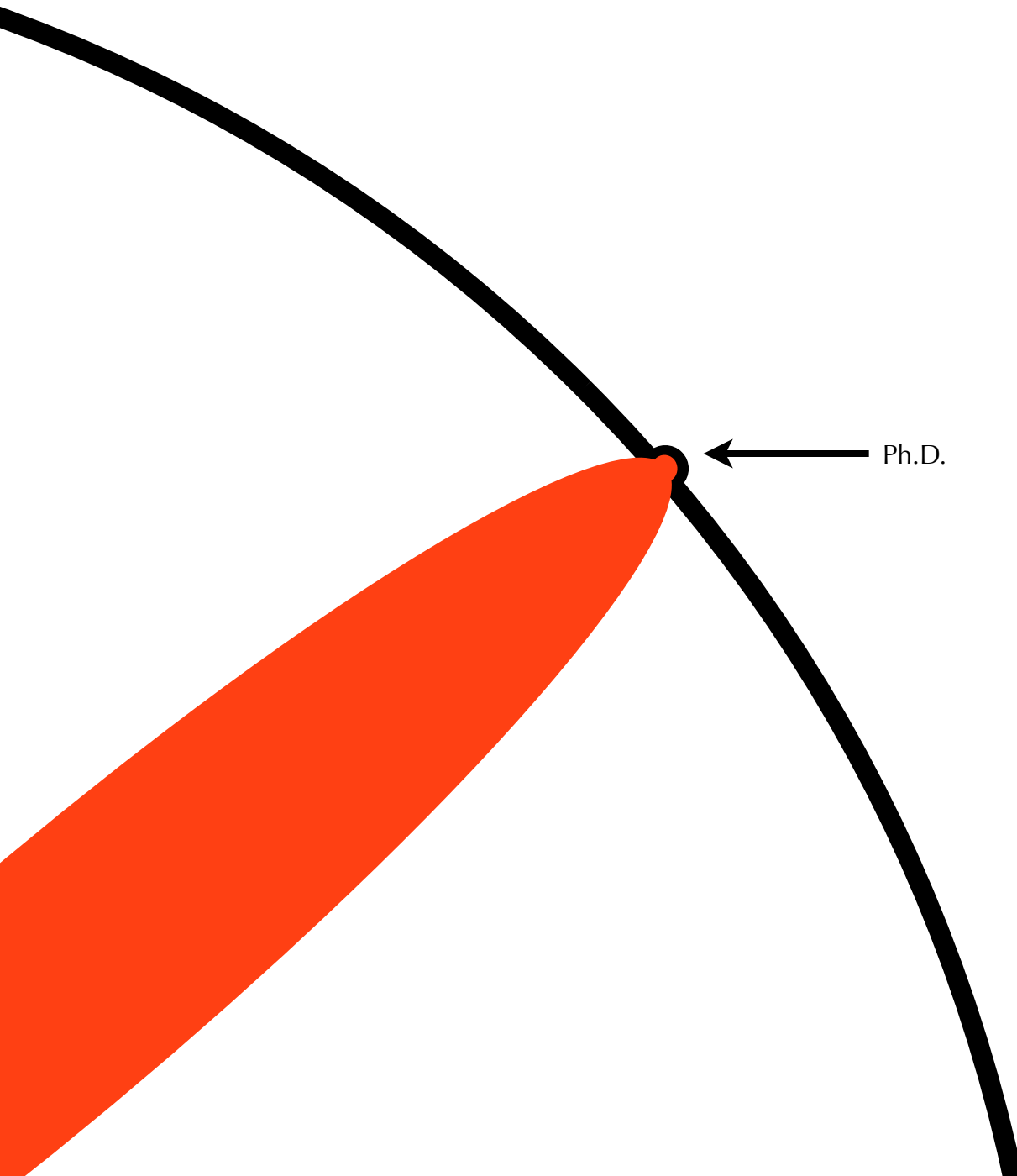
You push at the boundary for a few years.



Until one day, the boundary gives way.



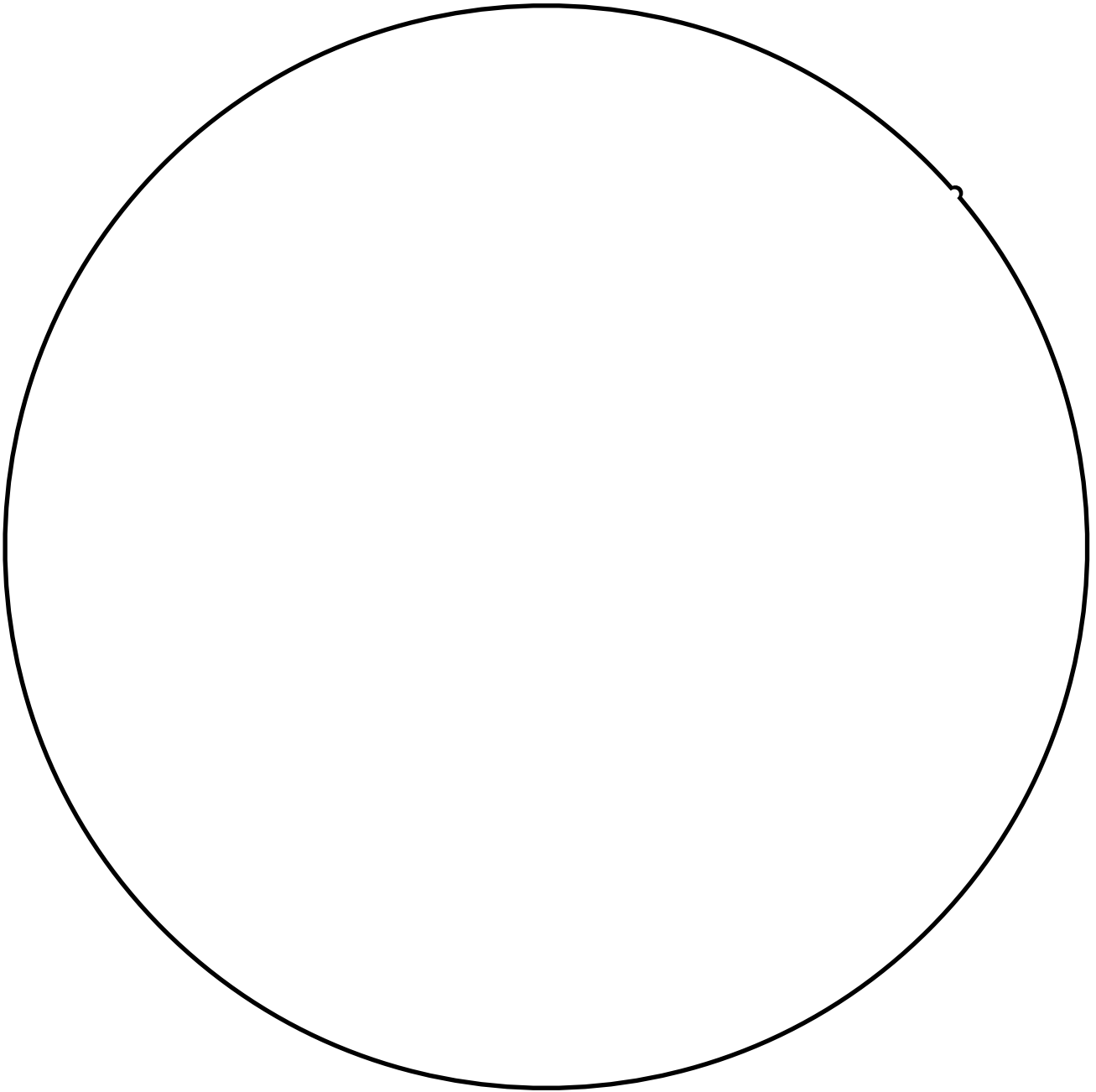
And, that dent you've made is called a Ph.D.



Of course, the world looks different to you now.



So, don't forget the bigger picture.



Keep pushing.