**Application Paper 1: How Do People Know What They know**

**Fernando Mckenzie**

**HUM 200 Introduction to Philosophy**

**City University of Seattle**

**Introduction**

This 3-page paper examines the process of validating one's knowledge and communicating it to others. Self-reflection, critical thinking, and knowledge assessment strategies including challenging assumptions and examining alternative perspectives will be covered. Also examined is how emotions and prejudices affect knowledge. This paper emphasizes the necessity of self-reflection and revision in understanding and communicating knowledge.

**Definition of knowledge and how it is acquired.**

Knowledge means understanding and being aware of a certain truth or situation. It comes from education, training, and experience, and it includes both theoretical and practical knowledge. There are many ways to learn, including but not limited to observation, experience, studying, and being taught. It can also be gained by reading and thinking about what you read or hear, as well as by talking to other people, this allows us to create mental models as guides to follow. Knowledge can also be gained through thinking and solving problems. One has several options to choose from when it comes to their educational journey (Trivedi, 2020). It is possible to obtain knowledge through a variety of channels, such as through one's intuition, authorities, personal experiences, or rational thought. We can become wiser as a result of the experiences that we have had (Page, Ashok, Barnett, 2021). In addition, a sizable amount of the content is contributed by persons who are well-versed in the subject area. Acquiring knowledge can be accomplished through a variety of strategies, including the combination of observation and experience, the imparting of knowledge and skills, reading and pursuing new knowledge, and exercise and drills.

**Importance of understanding and evaluating one's own knowledge**

Observation, experience, education, and communication teach people. They can reason and infer. Culture, background, and beliefs impact truth. Evidence and source credibility affect it. Empiricism, rationality, faith, intuition, and authority are all ways people learn and believe (trust in trusted or authoritative sources). Personal and professional growth requires knowledge evaluation (Herbert-Smith, 2023). It helps people improve themselves by identifying their strengths and flaws. Evaluate one's knowledge to find areas for improvement and focus learning efforts. For specialists, this is crucial. Accurately assessing and expressing one's views and ideas boosts credibility and reliability in professional and personal settings. It's crucial for networking and job advancement. A well-spoken person is more self-aware, learns quickly, makes good decisions, and is believable, making them a professional fast-tracker.

**Self-reflection and evaluation of personal knowledge**

Self-reflection and critical thinking help people identify biases and gaps in their knowledge and seek new information and perspectives. Self-examination helps people comprehend the world better, make better decisions, and solve difficulties (Herbert-Smith, 2023). It also helps people recognize their limitations and seek fresh information and skills. According to Peter F. Drucker, "Follow effective action with calm refection, from the quiet reflections will arise even more effective action." Reflecting on one's actions can improve future results. Balance action with reflection on what was learned. Quiet reflection can provide insights and improve future activities, resulting in better results. Emotions and prejudices can greatly impact knowledge. Emotions affect perception and memory, causing selective attention and recall. Confirmation bias, for instance, can distort how people find and process information. This can make people resist fresh information that contradicts their beliefs. If they desire an accurate and well-rounded vision of knowledge, people must be aware of these influences and reject them.

**Communicating and presenting knowledge to others**

Clear, organized, and audience-relevant communication and presentation are essential. Using simple, plain language to avoid confusing whoever is part of the dialog. Information should be presented in a logical, easy-to-follow manner that simplifies complicated ideas. To make crucial topics more memorable, using examples and anecdotes. Visuals like graphs, infographics, and photos can make the presentation more engaging and consumable (Emerson, 2022). The message should be matched to the audience's background, knowledge, and interest and supported by evidence. Finally, audience questions and feedback help assure comprehension and detect uncertainty. Considering the audience and modifying communication style ensures that the message is received and comprehended. Different audiences may respond better to different communication styles due to their expertise, background, and interests (Team, T. F. 2020). For a less informed audience, use simpler language; for a more educated audience, use more technical details. Tailoring the message to the audience's needs can also generate trust and credibility.

**Conclusion**

The paper examines how one validates and shares information. Self-reflection, critical thinking, and knowledge assessment are stressed. Education, experience, reading, and thinking are all ways to learn. Personal and professional growth requires self-knowledge and evaluation. Self-reflection and critical thinking can overcome biases and emotions that affect knowledge. The audience's background, expertise, and interests must be considered while communicating knowledge.

Resource:

Page, L. N., Ashok, A., & Barnett, B. C. (2021, August 16). The analysis of knowledge. Introduction to Philosophy Epistemology. Retrieved January 29, 2023, from https://press.rebus.community/intro-to-phil-epistemology/chapter/the-analysis-of-knowledge/

Trivedi, C. (2020, November 21). Ways of acquiring knowledge (knowing). Concepts Hacked. Retrieved January 29, 2023, from <https://conceptshacked.com/ways-of-acquiring-knowledge/#:~:text=There%20are%20many%20ways%20of,a%20great%20>

Herbert-Smith, K. (2023, January 16). *The importance of self-reflection*. Professional Learning Resources & Blog. Retrieved January 29, 2023, from <https://blog.irisconnect.com/uk/community/blog/importance-of-self-reflection/>

Emerson, M. S. (2022, August 9). *Eight things you can do to improve your communication skills - professional development: Harvard DCE*. Professional Development | Harvard DCE. Retrieved January 29, 2023, from https://professional.dce.harvard.edu/blog/eight-things-you-can-do-to-improve-your-communication-skills/

Team, T. F. (2020, December 9). Adapting communication styles to different audiences. Fleximize. Retrieved January 29, 2023, from https://fleximize.com/articles/000592/communication-styles