

# THE BELIEVING BRAIN FROM GHOSTS AND GODS TO POLITICS AND CONSPIRACIES HOW WE

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**The Believing Brain: From Ghosts and Gods to Politics and Conspiracies**

**How We Construct Beliefs and Reinforce Them as Truths**

### **Paragraph 1: What is the Believing Brain?**

The believing brain is a term used to describe the complex psychological processes involved in forming and maintaining beliefs. Beliefs are mental representations that we hold to be true, even in the absence of evidence or contradictory information. They play a fundamental role in our thoughts, emotions, and behaviors.

### **Paragraph 2: How Do We Form Beliefs?**

Beliefs are formed through a combination of our experiences, social influences, and cognitive biases. We tend to seek out information that confirms our existing beliefs, and we discount or ignore evidence that contradicts them. This process, known as confirmation bias, reinforces our beliefs and makes them more resistant to change.

### **Paragraph 3: The Role of Emotion**

Emotions play a significant role in the formation and maintenance of beliefs. When we experience strong emotions, such as fear or anger, we are more likely to accept beliefs that align with those emotions. This is known as the emotional contagion effect.

#### Paragraph 4: Conspiracies and Political Beliefs

Conspiracy theories and political beliefs are often based on a combination of confirmation bias and emotional contagion. By selectively seeking out information that supports their beliefs and dismissing opposing views, individuals can become entrenched in false or even dangerous beliefs. This can have serious consequences for society as a whole.

#### Paragraph 5: Critical Thinking and Belief Revision

It is essential to cultivate critical thinking skills to challenge our beliefs and remain open to new information. By questioning our assumptions, seeking out diverse sources of knowledge, and considering alternative perspectives, we can prevent our beliefs from becoming rigid and harmful.

#### Statistics for Business Economics Answers: A Comprehensive Guide

**Question:** Calculate the mean, median, and mode of the following data set: 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20

**Answer:**

- **Mean = 14** (Sum of values divided by the number of values)
- **Median = 14** (Middle value when arranged in ascending order)
- **Mode = None** (No value occurs more than once)

**Question:** Find the standard deviation of the data set: 10, 8, 12, 15, 13

**Answer:**

- **Standard deviation = 2.58** (Square root of the variance, which is the average of the squared deviations from the mean)

**Question:** Calculate the probability of rolling a sum of 7 when two fair dice are rolled.

**Answer:**

- **Probability = 1/6** (There are six possible outcomes for any roll, and only one outcome results in a sum of 7)

**Question:** A company's sales have an expected value of \$100,000 and a standard deviation of \$10,000. What is the probability that the sales will exceed \$115,000?

**Answer:**

- **Probability = 0.159** (Using the normal distribution, with a z-score of 1.5)

**Question:** A survey found that 60% of respondents preferred Product A over Product B. Create a 95% confidence interval for the true proportion of respondents who prefer Product A.

**Answer:**

- **Confidence interval:** (0.531, 0.669) or (53.1%, 66.9%)

### **The Real World of NGOs: Discourses of Diversity and Development**

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) play a significant role in international development, fostering discourses of diversity and inclusion while pursuing development goals. However, the reality on the ground often presents complexities that challenge these ideals.

#### **Q1: How do NGOs promote diversity and inclusion in their work?**

NGOs often emphasize diversity in their staff and programs, aiming to represent the populations they serve. However, this can be challenging in contexts where marginalized groups face structural barriers to participation.

#### **Q2: What are the limitations of NGOs' diversity and inclusion efforts?**

Despite intentions, NGOs may struggle to achieve representative diversity due to systemic inequalities, prejudices within the organization, or the need to balance donor priorities with community needs.

#### **Q3: How can NGOs address the gap between discourses and reality?**

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NGOs need to critically examine their recruitment and hiring practices, provide opportunities for marginalized groups to engage, and develop strategies to address intersectional inequalities faced by diverse communities.

#### **Q4: What is the role of local communities in shaping NGO discourses?**

NGOs must engage local communities in defining and prioritizing development needs, ensuring that their discourses align with the lived experiences and aspirations of the people they aim to serve.

#### **Q5: How can NGOs navigate the tension between diversity and development goals?**

Balancing diversity with development outcomes requires a nuanced approach that considers the unique needs of each community, prioritizes participatory processes, and recognizes that development is a collective endeavor that embraces diversity as a strength.

### **Delving into the Art of Comic Book Writing: A Comprehensive Guide from SCAD Creative**

The world of comic books captivates readers with its unique blend of art and storytelling. Mastering the craft of writing for this medium requires a comprehensive understanding of outlining, scripting, and pitching your sequential art stories. SCAD Creative offers a definitive guide to help aspiring comic book writers navigate this creative journey.

#### **1. The Essence of Outlining**

A solid outline serves as the foundation for a compelling comic book. It defines the story's direction, character arcs, and plot events. Start by brainstorming a logline, a concise summary of your story's premise. Divide the narrative into three acts: setup, confrontation, and resolution. Each act should have its own goals, obstacles, and climax.

#### **2. Crafting the Script: Sequential Storytelling**

The comic book script translates the outline into sequential form. Break the story down into panels, each capturing a moment of action, dialogue, or exposition. Use clear and concise dialogue, avoiding excessive wordiness. Focus on pacing and transitions to ensure a fluid reading experience.

### **3. Pitching Your Story: Making an Impact**

Pitching your comic book idea is crucial to secure attention from publishers or investors. Keep it brief, engaging, and tailored to the specific audience you're targeting. Highlight your story's unique aspects, the target demographic, and your artistic vision. Prepare a compelling pitch deck that showcases your writing samples and storyboard excerpts.

### **4. Common Pitfalls and Solutions**

Aspiring comic book writers often encounter common challenges. One pitfall is overwriting, which can lead to a cluttered narrative. Remember to be concise and let the visuals carry some of the storytelling burden. Another issue is character development, which requires creating relatable and compelling protagonists. Study characterization techniques and observe real-life interactions for inspiration.

### **5. The Path to Excellence**

Becoming a proficient comic book writer takes dedication and practice. As you work on your craft, seek feedback from mentors, fellow writers, and readers to refine your skills. Attend workshops, study the works of established professionals, and never stop exploring new storytelling techniques.

Remember, the art of comic book writing is an ever-evolving journey. By following these guidelines and embracing the principles of outlining, scripting, and pitching, you can unlock your potential and capture the imagination of readers with your sequential art stories.

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