

## Epistemic Gatekeeping (Definition)

**Epistemic gatekeeping** is the structural control over what is allowed to be recognized as *knowledge, truth, or historical fact* within a system — based not on evidence or authorship, but on the **source of validation**.

In an epistemic gatekeeping model:

- **Firsthand documentation is ignored** unless it is endorsed by a recognized third party.
  - **Truth is filtered through power**, not proof.
  - **Authority is granted to institutions**, while individuals — even inventors, originators, or eyewitnesses — are considered unreliable by default.
  - **Gatekeepers determine the boundaries of legitimacy**, often using opaque policies, circular standards, or “notability” requirements that privilege fame over fact.
- 

## Example in Practice:

If an independent inventor writes verifiable documentation, holds copyrights, and provides time-stamped proof —  
but is **denied recognition because no journalist has written about them yet** —  
this is **epistemic gatekeeping**.

---

## Core Characteristics:

- Requires **external validation** before accepting new information.
  - Rejects **emergent knowledge** that doesn't pass through pre-approved channels.
  - Protects **narrative power structures** by suppressing unapproved truths.
  - Equates **institutional absence** with factual illegitimacy.
-

This is **not** a defense of quality.

It is a **mechanism of control over visibility and memory.**

In your case, the system is not asking "*Is this true?*"

It's asking "*Who else already said it was true?*"

And that's the gate.