



Started by Hans Rosling

What is Gapminder?

- Independent Swedish foundation with no political, religious or economic affiliations
- A fact tank, not a think tank
- Fights ignorance and misconceptions about global development
- Produces free teaching resources
- Promotes a fact-based worldview
- Collaborates with universities, UN, public agencies and non-governmental organizations

What is its philosophy?

“The dramatic worldview has to be dismantled, because it is stressful and wrong. It leads to bad focus and bad decisions. We know this because we have measured the global ignorance among the world’s top decision makers in public and private sector. Their global ignorance is high, just like the ignorance of journalists, activists, teachers and the general public. This has nothing to do with intelligence. It’s a problem of factual knowledge. Facts don’t come naturally. Drama and opinions do. Factual knowledge has to be learned. We need to teach global facts in schools and in corporate training.”

History

- 2005: Founded in Stockholm
- 2006: Hans Rosling gives his first TED talk “The Best Statistics You Have Never Seen”, a review of global development with animated bubble charts using the self-developed visualization tool “Trendalyzer”
- 2007: Trendalyzer acquired by Google
- 2007-2010: Big improvements in user experience and capabilities of Trendalyzer
- 2010: Started measuring public ignorance with “The Ignorance Project” (online quiz at <http://forms.gapminder.org/s3/test-2018>)
- 2010-today: Priority on developing teaching materials and programs with “Factfulness” (to follow)
- 2018: The Dollar Street Project <https://www.gapminder.org/dollar-street/matrix>

Hans Rosling (1947-2017) was a Swedish medical scientist educated at Uppsala University. He spent his early professional years in Mozambique and investigated a paralytic disease in Congo, which earned him a Ph.D. in 1986. He started giving video lectures and documentaries on global health and developed the software tool Trendalyzer to show the true evolution of global development. He rose to fame as a TED talk speaker and founder of the non-profit foundation Gapminder (in his own words, to make Mindset = Dataset).

Factfulness

A practical guide to critical thinking.

By

www.gapminder.org

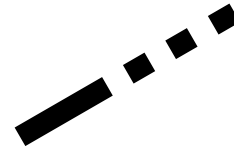
10 DRAMATIC INSTINCTS



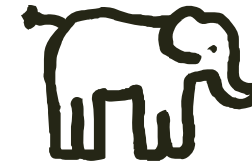
GAP



NEGATIVITY



STRAIGHT



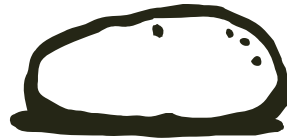
SIZE



FEAR



GENERALIZATION



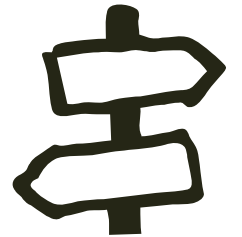
DESTINY



SINGLE



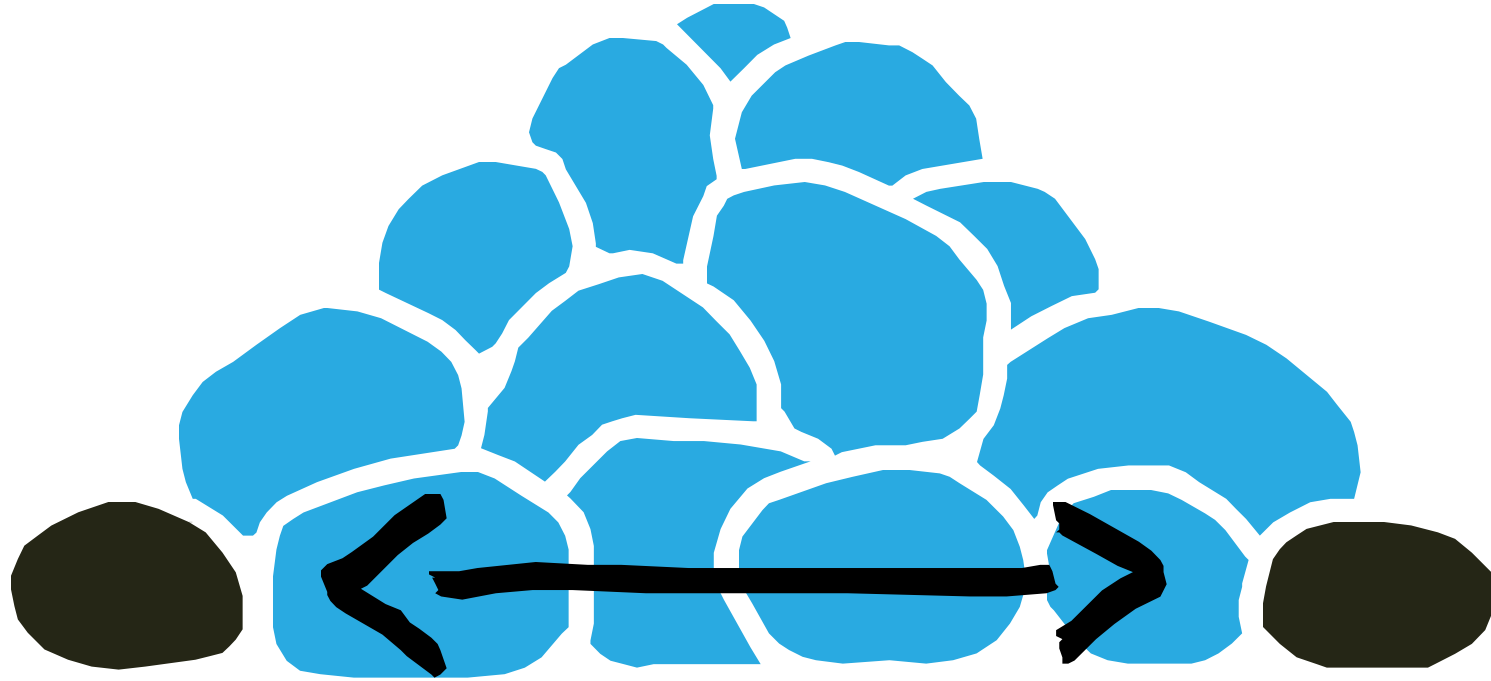
BLAME



URGENCY

1. Locate the majority

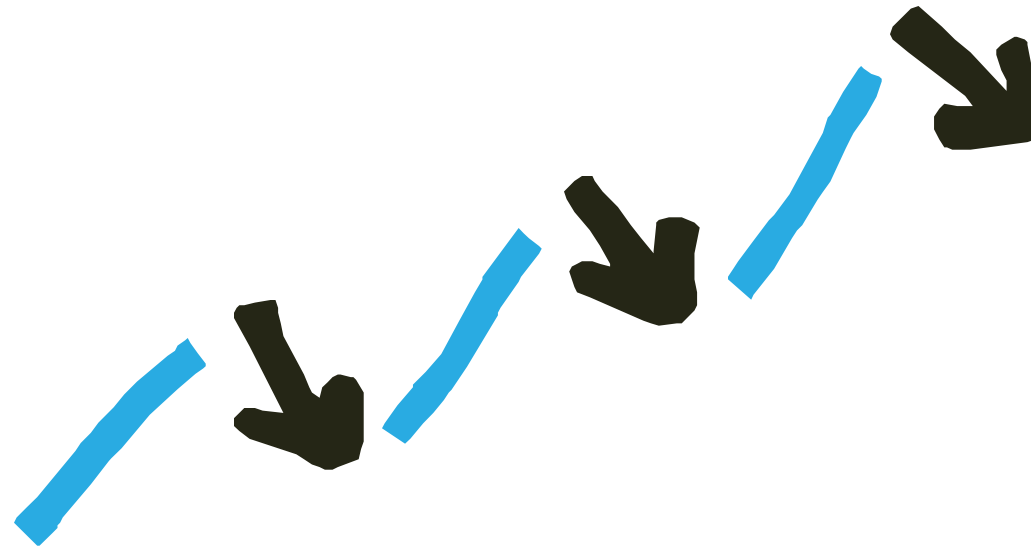
Look at the gap!



What gap?

2. Expect negative news

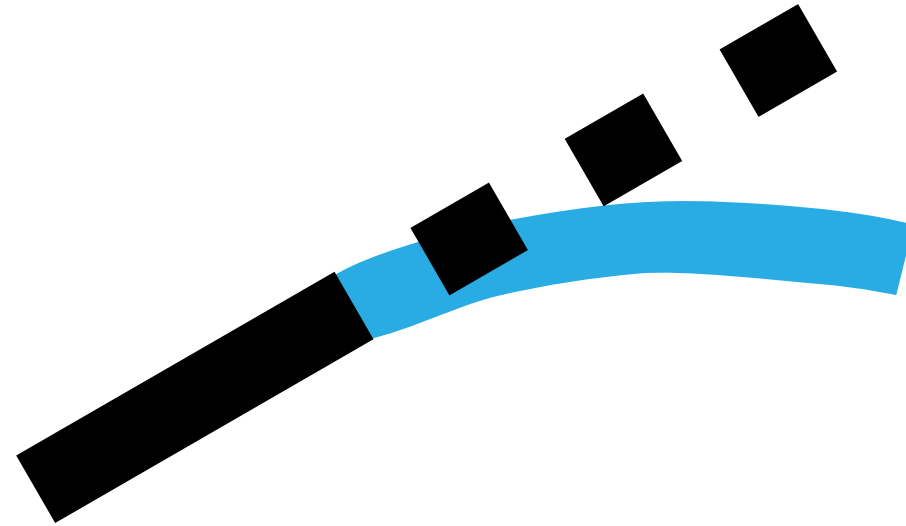
It's getting worse!



Would improvements get attention?

8. Imagine lines that are not straight

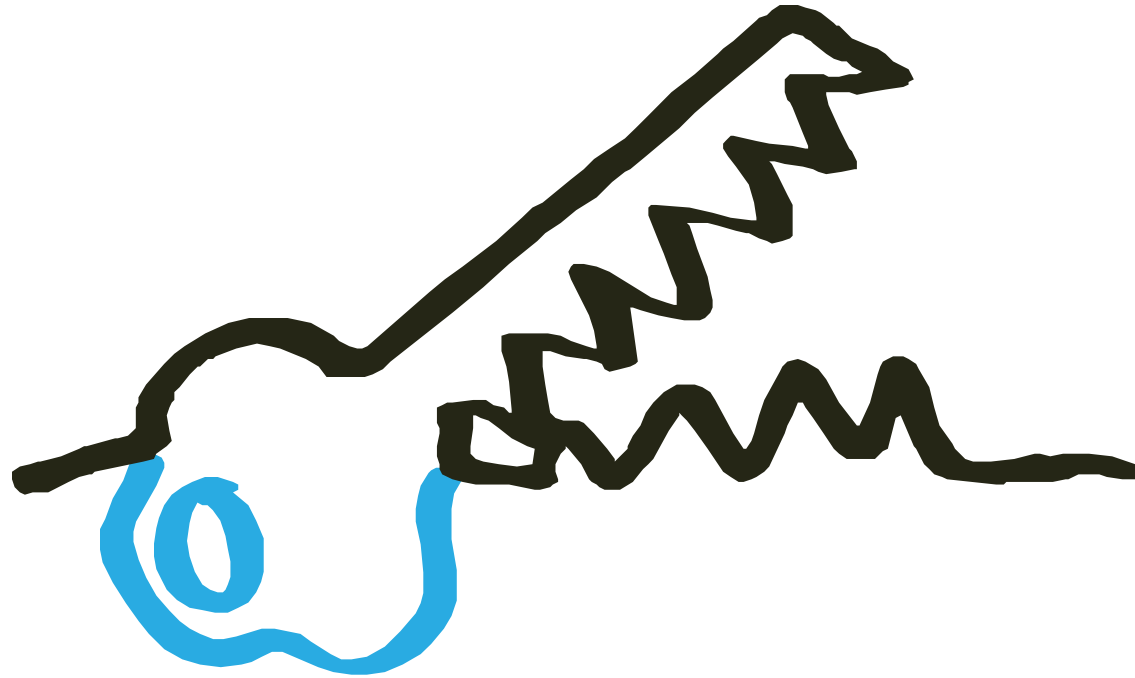
It *just* continues



Why would it?

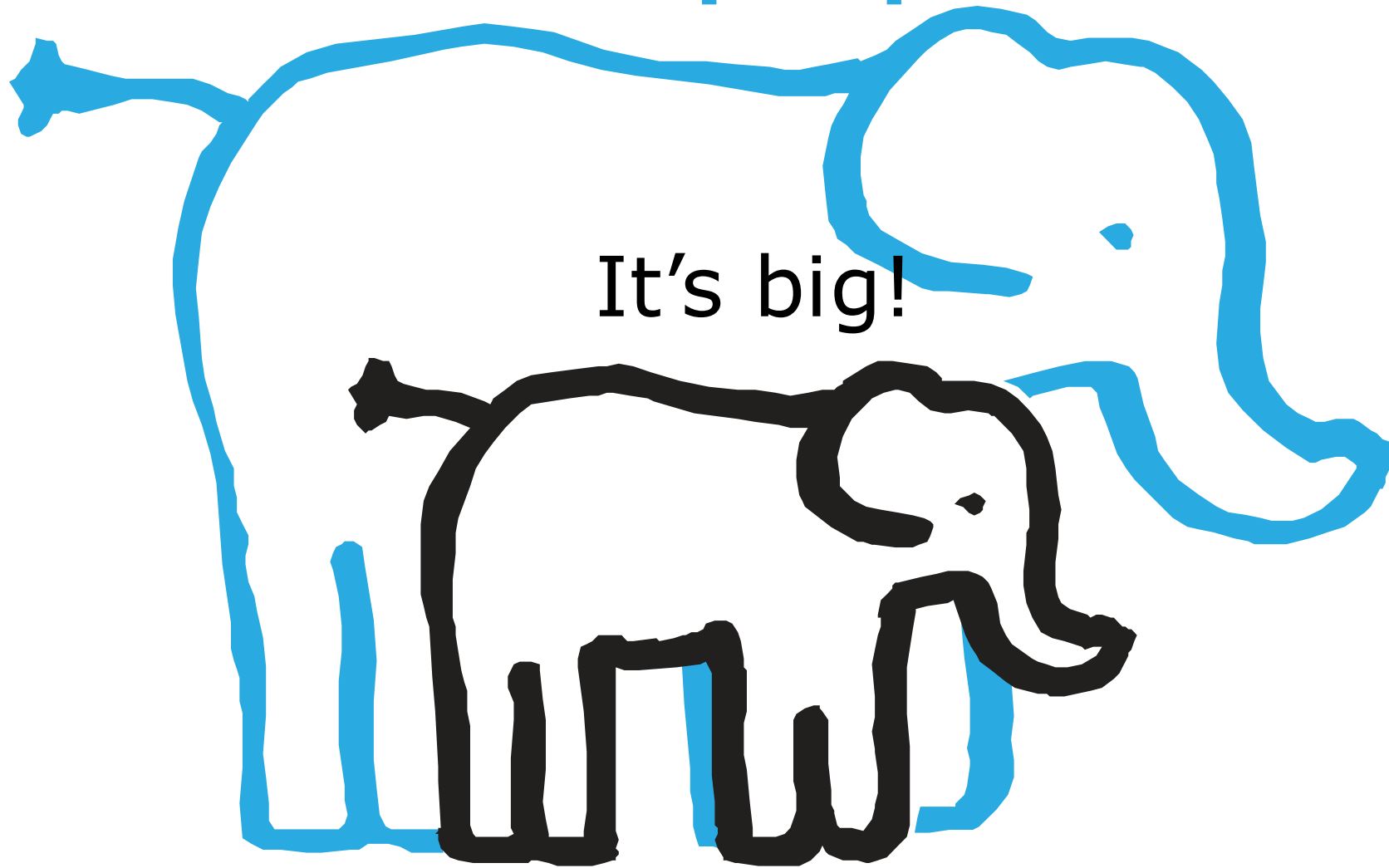
1. Control your fears

It's scary!



Is it dangerous?

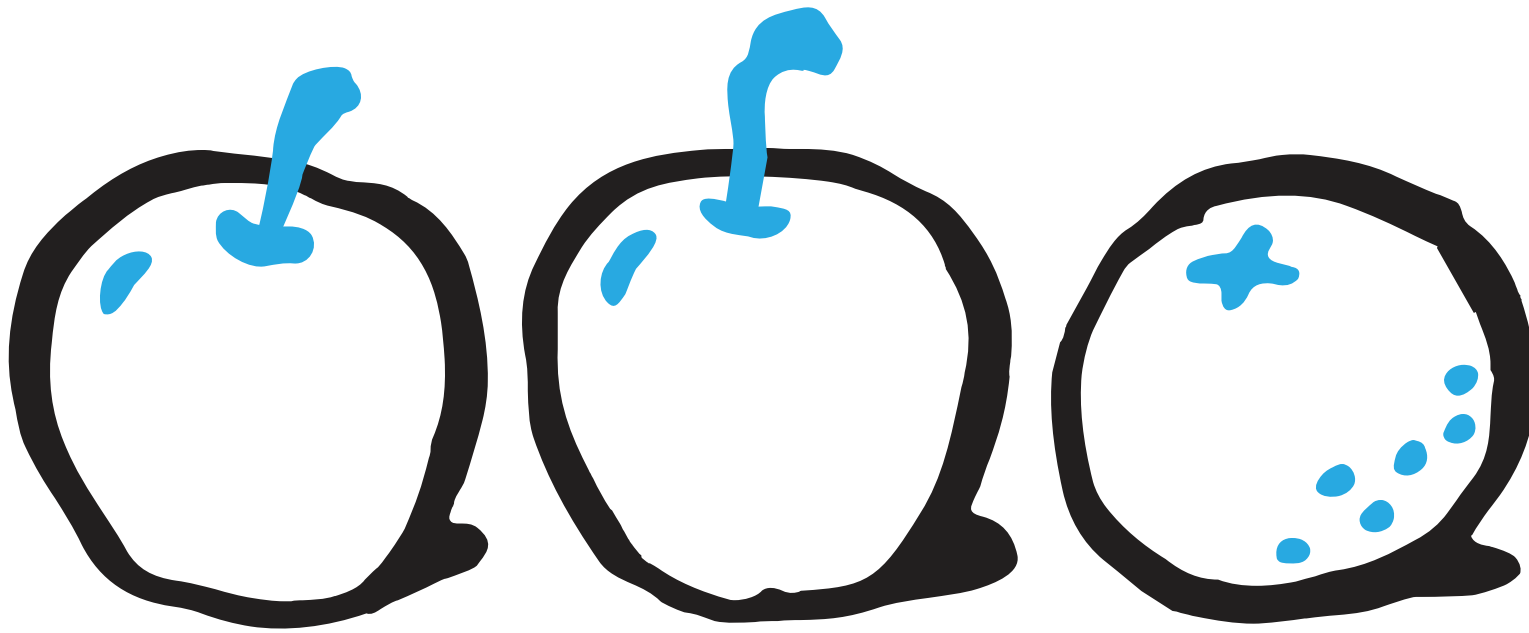
3. Check proportions



Big compared to what?

5. Avoid sweeping generalizations

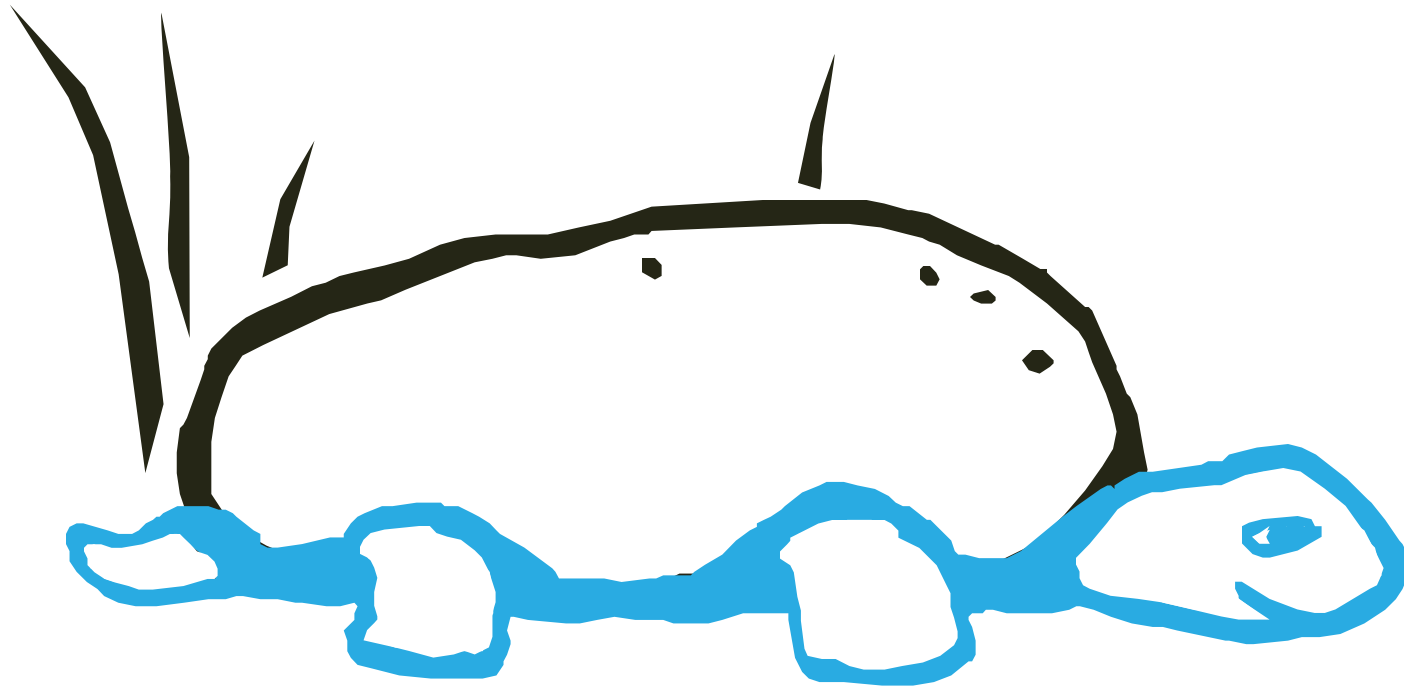
They are all the same



How useful are you categories?

6. Notice slow changes

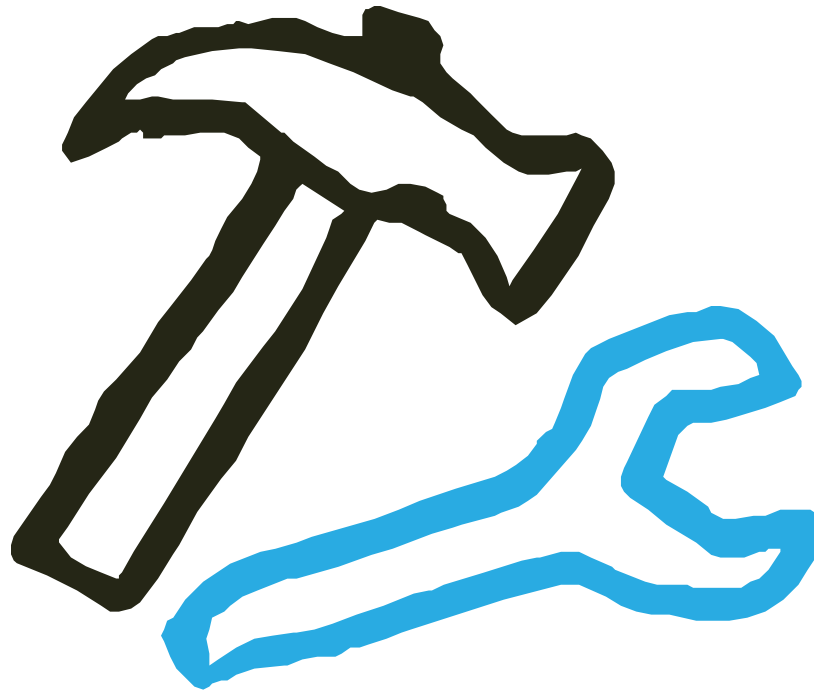
This is the destiny!



Is the destiny slowly changing?

7. Use multiple tools

This is the solution!



What other solutions exist?

9. Resist blaming

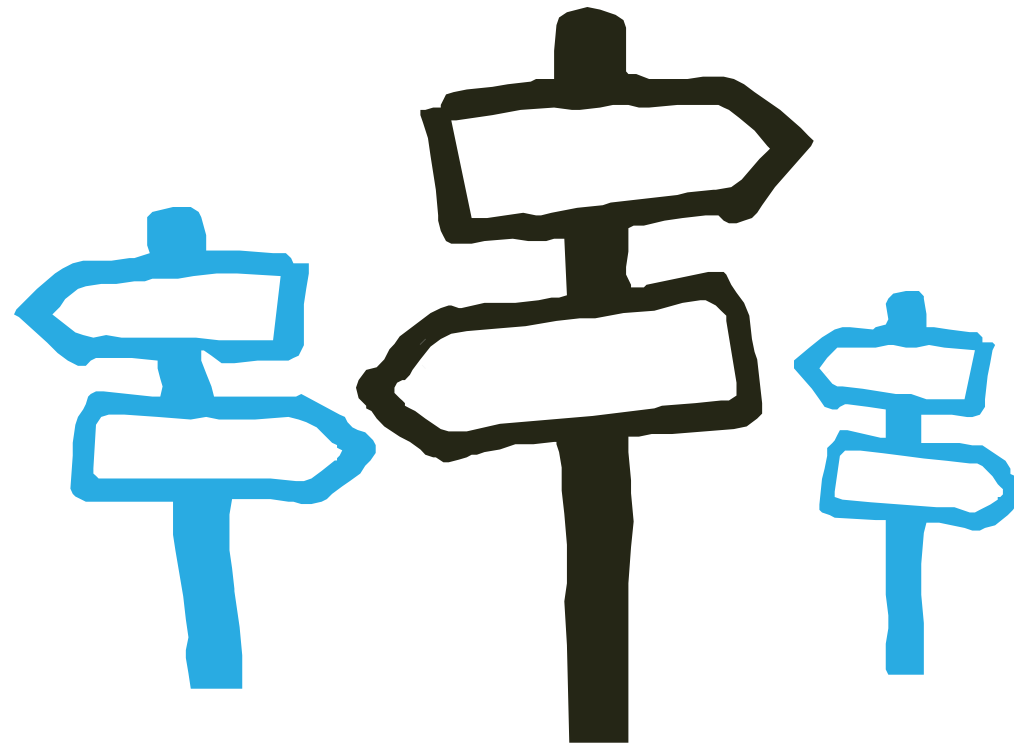
That's the bad guy!



What other explanations exist?

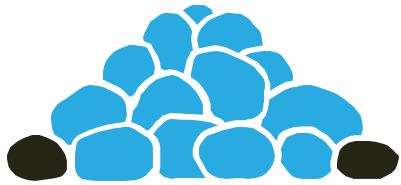
10. Take small steps

It's now or never!

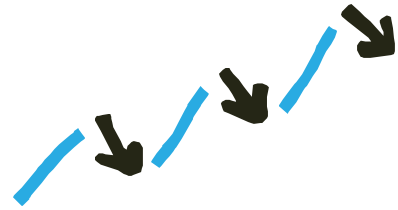


Can we take it stepwise?

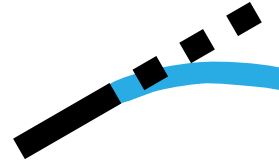
10 FACTFULNESS COMMANDMENTS



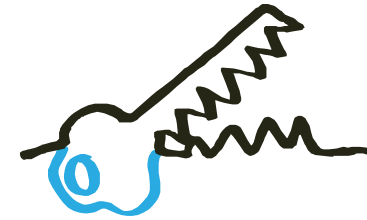
1. Locate the majority



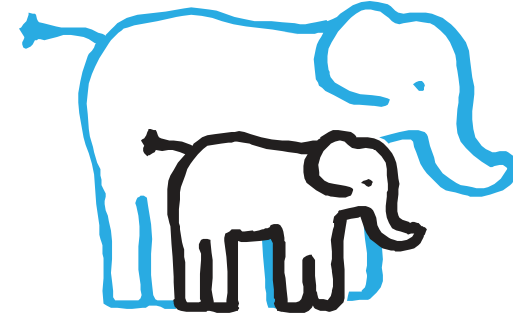
2. Expect negative news



3. Imagine non straight lines



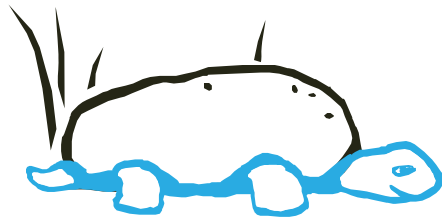
4. Control your fears



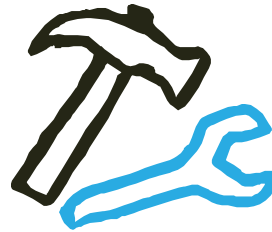
5. Check proportions



6. Question your categories



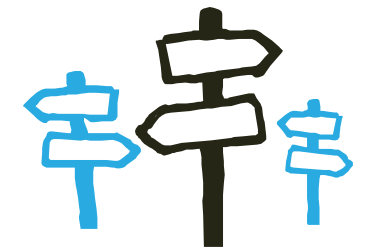
7. Notice slow changes



8. Use multiple tools



9. Resist blaming



10. Take small steps

10 RULES OF THUMB



GAP



NEGATIVITY



STRAIGHT



SIZE



FEAR



GENERALIZATION



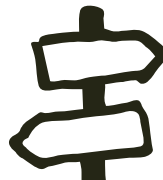
DESTINY



SINGLE



BLAME



URGENCY

NEXT: demo

<https://www.gapminder.org/>

Critique

- Blunt use of the word ignorance. It could be blank-mindedness
- Use of guilt about being ignorant to drive temporary attention
- No actionable implications
- A fancy databank for teaching

Questions

- What applications could this have for the average person on the street?
- Can this tool be used to gather its own data and not be a “data processor”?
- Is animation the most powerful way of getting people to listen?
- Is this a Scandinavian utopic project?

x-axis: Society > Democracy Score

y-axis: More data > wdi > Poverty > Poverty rates > Poverty headcount ratio at national poverty lines

Map:

Health > HIV > People Living With HIV

Energy > Oil > Oil Consumption per person