

In any field of endeavor, it is impossible to make a significant contribution without first being strongly influenced by past achievements within that field.

*Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the statement and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should consider ways in which the statement might or might not hold true and explain how these considerations shape your position.*

Rome was not built in one day, neither was its splendid history and achievements established on the liquid base of imagination and whimsical creation. In fact, the pure imagination doesn't exist at all. As the consequence of human consciousness, imagination and creation are naturally reflection of the reality, which inevitably contains the basis laid by people in the past, no matter in any field. Therefore, it's inconceivable that great achievements emerge without the influence of the past achievements. And driven by this commonplace assertion, one is prone to deny the possible existence of inspiration unfettered from past influence. However, it's as unwise to draw such an arbitrary conclusion as the problem would be dull without defining the range of achievements and separate it from the very basic fact that later achievements relies. Only then can I clarify my approving position, as well as its extent, to the statement.

Any examples that might somehow undermine the statement won't survive the philosophical questioning of a pedant extremist. When Van Gogh shed the twisted, fascinating night on the canvas, he was blazing a new style of art with the painting techniques explored by previous painter. When the nameless French mathematician first applied Brownian motion to finance, he was certainly acquainted with the volatile and uncertain nature of stock market. These two examples are soon denied of validation because these achievements were both based on the previous knowledge. However, if we're permitted to narrow the connotation of the word "achievements" and to see some of those as basis of human development, the painting skills and the nature of the stock market can no longer serve as negative evidence. After all, all achievements were firstly based on the knowledge of surviving as human, which is of course crystalizing during the history. Therefore, it's reasonable to categorize painting techniques as "basis" but not "achievements" in context of the question when we cite Van Gogh as an example of ingenious achievements.

When confining the reference of achievements, examples such as Van Gogh and Bachelier claim that it's possible to make significant contribution to some realm without been influenced much by precious achievements. However, such cases are harder to find in fundamental science research where chances of interdisciplinary research or implementing other discipline's idea is difficult. Even though we don't count Newton's laws of physics as achievements in the turn of 20th century. Einstein's relativity theorem still stands on the base of those brilliant physicists' work on modern physics. Even though in interdisciplinary research, further application of certain method in some realm are obviously inspired by previous implementation of the similar method. Therefore, if using stochastic process to simulate the

market's motion was nothing new in the time of Bachelier, his achievement was yet not free from past influence though the process he applied was unprecedented.

Nowadays, it becomes harder and harder to make breakthrough by single excellent ideas. The branches of disciplines are so entangled, each based on the previous current, interacting with those on the other. The ever-increasing application of modern techniques are impossible to be born in vacuum. Even the research of basic theoretical subjects, though on the trajectory of advancing, has come to a situation where scientists trying less to create but more to qualify and develop. Therefore, pursuing great ends without influence of the past achievements is getting harder. However, the situation in arts is quite different, modern life has witnessed a bursting of inspiration so that more example of ingeniously original achievements may come into being at an accelerating pace.