ToK Presentation Proposal (example)

Real-life situation: The unschooling movement is an educational philosophy that some families are choosing as opposed to traditional public education.

Area of Knowledge: Human Sciences

Purpose of the presentation: I want to evaluate the homeschoolers claims and evaluate compulsory public education claims. Specifically, I want to know if we are better educated by an institution like public education. Given the hundreds of billions of dollars and years of a young person’s life spent in public education, I believe it is important to critique the value of compulsory public education.

Kn. Claims: Homeschoolers and unschoolers claim that knowledge, education, and insights are an intrinsic part of human nature; therefore, a person’s education is best served by NOT attending a public school and instead learning from a self-directed inquiry. Public schools claim that learning occurs at school and without compulsory schooling we would not have an educated population.

Kn. Questions: How effective are statistics at justifying kn. claims? What constitutes good reasoning? How might the use of language shape the way we classify knowledge? How might memory shape the way we acquire knowledge?

Other Perspectives: Home schoolers, unschoolers, public schools, (Theory from Ivan Illich, John Holt, Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, John Dewey, BF Skinner)

Linking Questions: How are statistics used to represent implied claims in Math and History? To what extent do we rely on inductive knowledge when making claims in the sciences?

Format: Debate—Socrates and John Dewey debate the knowledge issues, illustrating and analyzing the strengths and limitations when evaluating knowledge claims.