Epistemology Culminating Task

Task:

In groups, you are to create a television talk-show segment featuring the philosophers on whom you have conducted research.

This television talk-show segment (your group is free to choose the genre, i.e. breakfast show, talk show, even tabloid talk show) must focus on examining two of the following questions:

- What is human knowledge?
- Can humans know the world as it really is?
- Are there some things that humans can never know?
- Are there some things that humans can know with absolute certainty?
- Is human knowledge based entirely on sensory perception?
- What counts as justification in claiming to know something?

You can present the television show live in the classroom, or may record a video to show during class time. You must use the resource (handout) provided on your philosopher for your research. You may use additional sources, but please check with your teacher first.

Full creativity is encouraged!

Group Member # 1: Television Show Host/ Mediator (can be of any epistemological school of thought)

1. Present general background on the chosen questions
2. Present own views (in a seemingly objective way)
3. Be in charge of the television show, ask questions, comment, facilitate, etc.
4. Introduce her/himself

Group Member #2: Empiricist

1. Introduce her/himself
2. Address the questions asked
3. Participate in debate with other philosophers

Group Member #3: Rationalist

1. Introduce her/himself
2. Address the questions asked
3. Participate in debate with other philosophers
Group Member #4 (and 5, is applicable): Skeptic or Other

1. Introduce her/himself
2. Address the questions asked
3. Participate in debate with other philosophers

Learning Goals

Students will:

- demonstrate an understanding of the main philosophical questions of epistemology
- evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the responses given by some of the major philosophers – formulate their own ideas about some of the main questions of epistemology, and explain and defend those ideas in philosophical exchanges with others;
- describe instances in which philosophical problems of knowledge occur in everyday contexts

Success Criteria

- The presentation should be 7-10 minutes in length
- The presentation should be well planned and organized
- Dialogue should demonstrate understanding of some of the main questions in epistemology
- Dialogue should compare principles, problems, methods and conclusions of different philosophers
- Presenters use effective reasoning and examples to support their points
- Presenters have effectively pulled out the key points from their research
- Presenters communicate information accurately, clearly, effectively and using the appropriate style
  o Staying in character
  o Not reading from the script (eye contact)
  o Appropriate volume
  o Appropriate tone
  o Believable gestures
- The presentation stimulates rich discussion
- The presentation remains clearly on topic and skillfully addresses key points
**Assessment/Evaluation**

Television Show Outline Due: by the end of the class on Tuesday, **April 9, 2013**.

Your outline will be returned on April 11.

**Checklist for Television Show Outline/Rough Script (12 marks):**

- All characters are assigned ( /1)
- Questions for discussion are selected ( /1)
- Television show script is written out and shows evidence of creativity and thoughtful planning ( /5)
- Research is completed on the philosopher and their ideas and the ideas effectively utilized in the script (permission to use additional sources has been cleared with teacher) ( /5)

**Pre-Show Interview (aka Unit 3 Test)**

Your unit test will take place on Thursday, April 11, 2013. You will be asked to answer three of the questions below as your philosopher (please note that these are the same questions that you will be addressing in your presentations).

- What is human knowledge?
- Can humans know the world as it really is?
- Are there some things that humans can never know?
- Are there some things that humans can know with absolute certainty?
- Is human knowledge based entirely on sensory perception?
- What counts as justification in claiming to know something?

You will also be asked to compare your (as your philosopher) ideas to those of Descartes.

**Presentations of Television Talk-Show Segments**

Beginning of class, **April 16, 2013**.

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We will then start ETHICS! HURRAY! 😊