ARISTOTLE: “To say of what is that it is not, or of what is not that is, is false; while to say of what is that it is, and of what is not that it is not, is true.”

Relativism

• Claims that all so called truth is relative... that there really is no absolute truth
  o Different things may be true for different people
• However, there is a problem!
  o The mere statement “There really is no such thing as an absolute truth” is wrong!

Properly Justified True Belief

• In order for a state of belief to qualify as knowledge, there must be a link or a connection between the mental state of affirmation and the state of reality...
• What is proper justification? What counts as sufficient reason or grounds for a belief to be held and to count as knowledge?
  o **Recall Descartes!**

Skepticism

• Today’s world is based on knowledge... thanks to computers and the internet we are told that modern knowledge is expanding geometrically faster than ever before... we are told our knowledge doubles at least every four years!!
  o Do we really know more? Is it our knowledge that is expanding or merely our beliefs and opinions?
• Since ancient times, we have been warned against our natural tendency to claim knowledge where it in fact does not exist.
• Skepticism helps us to understand more deeply what knowledge truly is, where it comes from and if evidence is required for rational belief and therefore knowledge
• “Skeptic” comes from the Greek “to inquire” ... a Skeptic is not a matter of denial, but inquiring, seeking and questioning doubt
• Proper skeptics do not deny ... they just hesitate to affirm and question the affirmations that people make too quickly... they are not dogmatic naysayers!!
• Original idea of Skepticism comes from the advice to refrain from drawing conclusions based on appearances... caution in order to be unperturbed and live a peaceful happy life (Pyrrho of Ancient Greece)
• The goal of a Skeptic is to find out why we have any of the beliefs that we hold... why we think we know the things we claim to know and how can we have the knowledge we claim...