

# A response to Descartes meditation essay sample



**ASSIGN  
BUSTER**

I think descartes was right about the only thing we can truly know is that we exist. All other thoughts, feelings, perceptions and the like must be questioned. Because we are human and to be human is to be fallible. We can not assume that we are correct in our basic assumptions about anything. Even the idea that we do exist (in some context) must be questioned. The answer to that questioning must inevitably be yes. I as the perceiver of the world must exist.

My capability to ask " Do I in fact exist ? " is proof that " I am". Descartes I think was well aware that what he proposed did not go far enough. At least not to truly test the boundaries of our ability to look into our own ignorance of truth. But in those times to propose such a theory was to sentence yourself to death. Hence some dilution of the primary theses was required.

I think however that descartes did a masterful job of laying a trail of crumbs. That anyone could follow without actually saying that which he knew would lead to greater personal misfortune, if not his own untimely demise. I also agree with descartes that we, as humans are somewhat incapable of truly laying aside all belief in that which we can not be entirely certain of. But instead we must resign ourselves to occasionally look off into the void of our own ignorance and contemplate what meaning this may have to our lives and our understanding of the world in which we live.

I am strongly convinced that if we, as humans are to develop into newer and greater insights, we must learn to set aside that which we think we know. Even if only briefly and only in an abstract way. This I feel is true because it is exactly that process that teaches us to not only think outside the box but to

discard the notion of the box. So we can truly make new innovations rather than just take the next step down the path that others have set for us. I however am in something of a disagreement with descart's position that any of us are any more or less sane.

The thought that his "mad men" are less authoritative about the true nature of reality is faulty if truth is determined by the belief of the masses then in columbus's time the world really was flat and leeches really do cure hemophilia. these are both fine examples of beliefs that we as a somewhat more advanced society have rejected as false but which were at the time no less believed by the masses or the scholars of the day. Hence we must not assume that these "mad men" are incorrect in their assertions just because we personally or the greater majority disagree or fail to find truth in them.