

# How to think about weird things: critical thinking for a new age and uncertain SC...

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How to Think About Weird Things: Critical Thinking for a New Age AND Uncertain Science... Uncertain World. Introduction This essay is about two books, How to think about weird things: Critical Thinking for a New Age by Theodore Schick, Jr and Lewis Vaughn and Uncertain Science... Uncertain World by Henry Pollack. Both books are designed as a means of understanding the world and to not take things at face value. For example, How to think about weird things focuses largely on how to deal with arguments which are fraudulent or real. And Uncertain Science... Uncertain World mostly deals with showing different aspects of a globalized world in terms of economics, medical care, technology, development and cultures. Such an approach by Pollack will warrant lesser ethnocentrism and a better approach at dealing with the world. However, I will be dealing largely with two chapters from the two respective books. The first would be on Chapter 6 of How to think About Weird Things and Chapter 10 of Uncertain Science... Uncertain World.

Chapter 6 of How to think about weird things is on evidence and inference. To support a claim it is necessary for it to have evidence to back it up. However, the book also explains that

evidence can be contrarywise and they also can be subjective to the bias of the one who puts

forward such an evidence, this is a needed measurement of understanding and this is explained in

the subchapter 'Confirmation Bias'. The evidence is therefore subjective and can be manipulated,

Schick and Vaughn also goes on to explain methods as to how to negate the claims as being untrue.

The other chapter that I would like to talk about is Pollacks' 'Predicting the future'. In

predicting the future, Pollack talks about ways and means of using measurement to dictate what will

happen in the future, there are reasonable estimates in the scope of science that can measure the

probabilities of the future. For example, we can measure from the carbon emissions that are being

released into the atmosphere daily can have adverse effects to the environment at present historical

time.

In conclusion, both these chapters are necessary for me to understand how certain claims

made by people can be refuted. They are clear cut, concise and engaging enough for me to

understand in layman's terms. I think it is necessary however, to read the whole book to understand

the action and reaction of the way humans apply themselves to the world that they have to be

cautious. I thoroughly enjoyed both books and they have helped me considerably in forming a good

opinion as well as countering a bad argument.

References:

Pollack, Henry. *Uncertain Science... Uncertain World*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 2003.

Schick, Theodore Jr. And Vaughn, Lewis. *How to think about weird things: Critical Thinking for a New Age*. McGraw-Hill Higher Education. 1999.