

3. "The possession of knowledge carries an ethical responsibility." Evaluate this claim.

I. Introduction: In this essay, I am going to show that not only the possession of knowledge but also the interpretation of knowledge carries an ethical responsibility.

A. How do we know when we carry an ethical responsibility and when not?

1. Ethical responsibility is the responsibility an individual has towards a society, when taking moral and social guidelines into consideration.

B. Examples from ethics, history, mathematics and arts will be taken.

II. In ethics, the interpretation of knowledge carries an ethical responsibility, because depending on the personal interpretation of knowledge ethical responsibility is created or not.

A. Example: You see the boyfriend of your best friend with another girl. → Knowledge you have

1. Interpretation 1: he meets someone so what? Harmless → no ethical responsibility, don't tell you best friend

2. Interpretation 2: he cheats on her → tell best friends, ethical responsibility

3. Both situations exactly same knowledge, but different interpretations

So what is the ethical responsibility here, if there are different interpretations of the same situation? Connection is not clear to me.

B. Counter example: You witness a murder

1. Interpretation: Killing is bad there is no exception to it (categorical view) → go to the police, ethical responsibility

2. No other interpretation possible because killing always wrong → no responsibility due to interpretation but due to knowledge

You give examples, but you are missing the argument! What do you want to show with this counter example? Counter example to what? Maybe clear to you, but unclear to me, because much info is missing. You must communicate your ideas.

III. In history both possession of knowledge and interpretation of knowledge carry an ethical responsibility **WHY?**

A. Old letters from great- great- grandfather written in Kurrent → know alphabet thus translate to modern style of writing to preserve knowledge of family history (possession of knowledge → ethical responsibility) Why does this result in an ethical responsibility? **Not clear. The preservation of the family history is an ethical responsibility? WHY? You need to complete your argument. I am not saying that it is NOT an ethical responsibility, but just saying that you did not make the connection clear.**

B. Reading the letters → not make too much sense at first → it's from complete different centuries. See it in a historic context & interpret content. eg your brother not historic background knowledge that you have → ethical responsible to tell him with the background knowledge → he can make sense of it as well. **Again, WHY is this an ethical responsibility?**

C. Limitation: we know from history that communism is bad, in china there is communism → is it our ethical responsibility to destroy communism in China? No that's not how it works → would probably result in a war → kills people → killing is wrong =**Dilemma?**

IV. In Math it depends not only on the possession of knowledge but on what you do whether you have an ethical responsibility or not **Ok. So also it depends on what you DO with the knowledge? Did you also say this in the introduction?**

A. Student → knows how to integrate → no ethical responsibility, can use it at the math test, but that's it, Mathematician → knows how to integrate finds out how to calculate something new using integration → ethical responsibility to pass knowledge → might be important in other areas of knowledge eg natural sciences, different from other **Student has no ethical responsibility to help other students?!**

B. Different from other AOK → e.g. Natural sciences do experiment in groups in biology class → spill something → responsibility to tell other group members, mention it in lab report → influences results

C. Limitations → if you tutor a younger student → responsibility to explain it that he understands it → also as a student responsibility

In the introduction you promised me that you are going to talk about the possession of knowledge and interpretation of knowledge. Where are you talking about these ideas here?

V. In Arts neither the possession of knowledge nor the interpretation of knowledge carry an ethical responsibility **Certainly you can find exceptions! It's interesting, another student who wrote about arts said that artists have a great ethical responsibility! It is always good to give BALANCED answers.**

A. Look at an exhibition → don't like pictures → everybody has different opinions, different understanding of art → no ethical **responsibility FOR WHAT/FOR WHO?** → good friend might think one of best exhibitions

You always say: "no ethical responsibility" or "there is an ethical responsibility", but so far did not explain to me what you mean with "ethical responsibility". What does it mean to have an ethical responsibility in MATH, ARTS, SCIENCE etc? Do the words "ethical responsibility" mean something different in these areas or not?

B. Limitation: working in culture sector eg: write performance critiques → carry to some extent an ethical responsibility → people read it and trust the critique although personal opinion. Interpretation → responsibility → express opinion but justify it well

C. Arts → hard to say if ethical responsibility or not **?!?!?!?!?!?!?!?!?!?**
WHAT? Read your own words! In point V. you said "In Arts neither the possession of knowledge nor the interpretation of knowledge carry an ethical responsibility" and now you tell me that it is "hard to say"? Did you change your mind so quickly? , depends on how you work with art:
spectator → no responsibility, work in culture sector → responsibility → goal to make people interested in arts

VI. Conclusion: In this essay I have shown that an ethical responsibility due to knowledge depends on numerous aspects **LIKE WHAT?** (often a mixture of them) and not only on the possession of knowledge

