

Way of Knowing- Reason/Logic

Benefits:

Can acquire knowledge about the world that *goes beyond the immediate evidence of our senses*

Allows us to determine the *validity* of an argument/claim

Allows us to develop *consistent* beliefs about the world

Allows us to make *good generalizations*

Deductive reasoning *preserves truth* (assuming the premises are true!)

Limitations:

Despite appearances, it is possible to *doubt the certainty* of even basic laws of logic

When deductive reasoning is applied to the real world it is no more certain than the (inductively derived) premises on which it is based.

Many of our inductive premises are based off our senses, which we know can mislead us

Inductive reasoning sometimes leads to making *hasty generalizations* which are then reinforced by our tendency to only notice things which confirm them-THE BLACK SWAN!

Truth and validity are not the same thing

The main causes of *bad reasoning* are ignorance, laziness, pride and prejudice

The 'prison of consistency' can trap us and stifle creativity; can cause us not to see new perspectives. Solution: Lateral thinking!

Need to balance reason with emotion