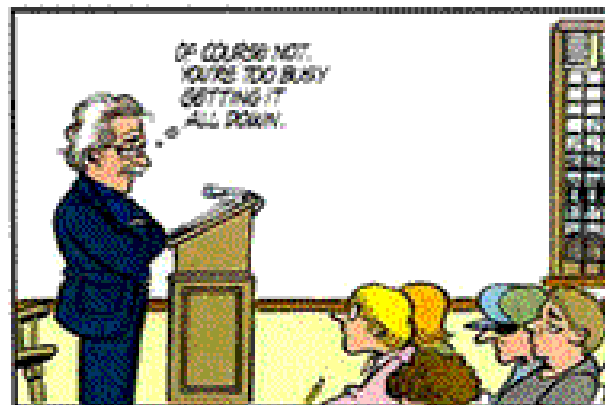
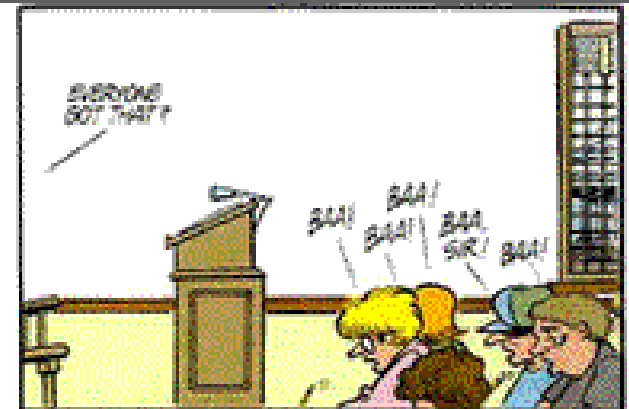


The epistemology of case studies

Felicia Keesing
Bard College

Doonesbury

BY
G. B. TRUDEAU



Reflective Judgment model

- Derived as descriptive model
 - How knowledge is viewed
 - How knowledge is justified
- Early stages
 - Knowledge is from authority
 - Evidence is not necessary
- Later stages
 - Evidence is necessary
 - Interpretation of evidence is critical

Stages of Reflective Judgment

- Stage 2
 - Knowledge is absolutely certain, but may not be immediately available
 - Beliefs are justified by direct observation or from authorities

`"If it's on the news,
it has to be true."`

`(King & Kitchener 1994)`

Stages of Reflective Judgment

- Stage 4
 - Nothing can be known with certainty
 - Beliefs are justified with evidence, but choice of evidence is idiosyncratic

Stages of Reflective Judgment

- Stage 4

"I'd be more inclined to believe [evolution] if they had proof...I don't think we'll ever know. People come up with different interpretations because people differ. Who are you going to ask? Because no one was there."

(King & Kitchener 1994)

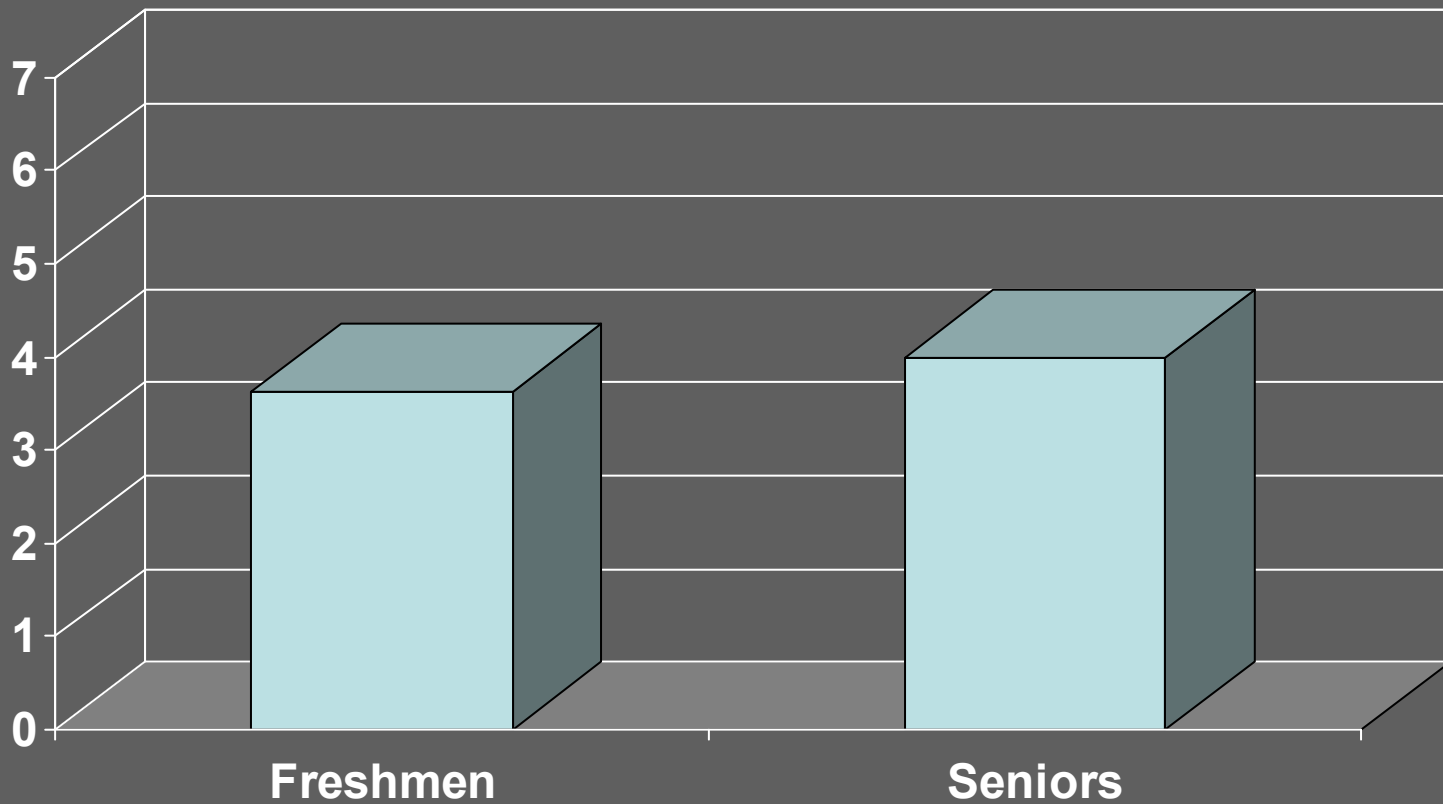
Stages of Reflective Judgment

- Stages 6 and 7
 - Knowledge is actively constructed
 - Some points of view are more valid than others, based on the quality of evidence and its interpretation

“One can judge an argument by how well thought-out the positions are, what kinds of reasoning and evidence are used to support it, and how consistent the way one argues on this topic is as compared with other topics.”

(King & Kitchener 1994)

Effects of college on epistemological stage



Effects of college on epistemological stage



How could you challenge student perception that knowledge comes from authority?

How could you challenge student perception that all points of view are equally valid?

