



Theory of Knowledge Class Discussion: Standing at the Centre

Introductory questions:

What do you think that filmmaker Daryl Duke means by his quoted assertion, with its metaphor? In what ways would you agree with him? In what ways would you disagree with him?

Some follow-up questions:

In what ways do filmmakers or photographers “stand at the centre” in the sense of *imposing control* on the raw material of what they observe, from their own vantage points? Taking the camera literally, can you think of ways in which they don’t just neutrally record what they see but actively create their versions in the choices they make?

In the metaphor, could “paintbrush” or “pen/keyboard” be substituted meaningfully for “camera” for creative artists in other art forms that give representations of the world?

In what ways is the quotation about **communicating** a particular vision or story, from one spot to the whole rest of the world? In what ways could the camera be argued to be the most powerful contemporary tool for communication in the news media? When is it particularly effective? How do images interact with language in communicating the news?

In what ways is the quotation essentially about **perspectives** on the world? How many cameras are there, and how many centres? How have the mass ownership of digital media (including video) and participation in social media changed the nature of journalism? What ethical responsibility comes with taking photos and sharing them oneself?

How have cameras – or, more broadly, visual imaging -- changed **methods of creating and communicating knowledge** within this century? How do areas of knowledge use images in ways different from the last century?

Concluding questions

In what ways do perspectives affect the way *knowledge* is directed, created, evaluated, and communicated – for example in interpretations in history and in theoretical explanations within the natural and human sciences? In what ways does the person or the group that holds the camera – the means and choices of recording and communicating – influence what the rest of the world knows?

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