**[](http://www.google.com/imgres?hl=en&biw=1858&bih=1070&tbm=isch&tbnid=y6VT215d7hgpOM:&imgrefurl=http://outoppie-presentations.blogspot.com/2009/03/cartoon.html&docid=E9IYlnWPnH3jtM&imgurl=http://2.bp.blogspot.com/_PoXAWsmO1Fo/Sb43IUi8wfI/AAAAAAAAAv8/OlFntza5aoM/s320/Better_Half10.gif&w=320&h=281&ei=02uXT8LoM8jL2QWig9XSDQ&zoom=1&iact=hc&vpx=959&vpy=196&dur=4068&hovh=210&hovw=240&tx=159&ty=98&sig=117929951524218723499&page=1&tbnh=103&tbnw=117&start=0&ndsp=64&ved=1t:429,r:34,s:0,i:138)**

**IB Theory of Knowledge – Starting the Presentation**

**For the presentation you must find an issue of global relevance which invokes a conflict of values. You have to go from a particular example to general knowledge issues.**

**Knowledge issues must be identified - this is the hardest part and you must spend time carefully formulating these. It is usually best to form them as questions to consider,.**

**Incorporate the ‘ways of knowing’ eg language reason, emotion…**

**Need to consider your topics effect on different areas of knowledge where possible.**

**You can work on your own or in twos. The length of the presentation must be ten minutes for an individual or twenty for a group of two.**

1. **Identify an issue of interest in an area that you know well and feel comfortable with.**

For example, genetically modified food in Germany, the destruction of the Amazon forest in Brazil, or drug policy in The Netherlands. Global warming, Social networking, Role of US as ‘nanny state’

1. **The issue must introduce a conflict of concepts and values.**
2. **Examine the facts, language, statistics, and images used by at least two sides in the conflict in their representation of the issue.**
3. **In the process, identify assumptions, justifications, values, and emotions which diverge.**
4. **To what extent can you find valid arguments for the stance you have taken?**
5. **Can the views you have determined be reconciled?**

**Examples of Presentations:**

The following examples are intended to give you an idea of the type of topics which would be appropriate, and to show ways in which contemporary issues can be linked with **knowledge** issues, providing a prompt for reflective thinking.

[](http://www.google.com/imgres?hl=en&sa=X&biw=1858&bih=1070&tbm=isch&tbnid=kfYJa002A0vX4M:&imgrefurl=http://taikongren.net/hard-boiled-shanghai/2011/03/&docid=Zgt4BHSCsmXZ6M&imgurl=http://taikongren.net/hard-boiled-shanghai/wp-content/uploads/2011/03/southpark-bestfriends.gif&w=400&h=300&ei=xm2XT8qBC8qd2QWF1-DqDQ&zoom=1&iact=hc&vpx=165&vpy=253&dur=20&hovh=194&hovw=259&tx=153&ty=116&sig=117929951524218723499&page=1&tbnh=116&tbnw=153&start=0&ndsp=58&ved=1t:429,r:11,s:0,i:91)

**Whatever the topic – you must concentrate on Knowledge Issues.**

* Labeling of genetically-modified food
* Cosmetic surgery - ethics, aesthetics and cultural diversity
* Carbon pricing (environmental economics)
* Islamic education
* Criticism by "the West" of China on human rights issues
* Political correctness and the teaching of literature (banning books that are
* not "PC")
* How the lack of certainty in science is used for political inaction
* Human cloning - what is possible? what is ethical?
* Fertility treatments - what is possible? what is ethical?
* Perceptions of risk - why do people think that air travel is more dangerous than car
* use?
* Non-Western aesthetic systems, e.g. in art or music
* Do genetic differences between the sexes undermine the argument for equality?
* Could genes influence criminal (e.g. violent) behaviour? Does this undermine
* the validity of the legal system (guilt, punishment, etc.)?
* Restrictions on civil rights as a result of"the war on terrorism"
* Terrorism - can it be defined?

**Practice Exercise:**

**Try to think of knowledge issues when considering the topics below:**

Iraq

Euthanasia

Vivisection

Globalisation

Business ethics / can a business ever be ethical?

Child labour

Marketing and ethics

Global networking and privacy

Is murder ever justified?

Stem cell research

Poverty

Religion and Science

Animal Rights

Maths and truth

Democracy as a political system

Art and Beauty

The Church and ethics

Gulf oil spill

Conspiracy theories

Free Health care

Reality shows



You need to identify a topic area you are interested in and write at least 3 knowledge issues that arise from it and discuss these with us before proceeding.

**Topic:**

1.

2.

3.

NOTES: