

Homework 13

Due by class Monday, March 9th

1. Do this first! **To turn in:** Think of something that you once believed that you've now changed your mind about. What was it? What made you change your mind? Was it someone else or something that happened? Was it abrupt or gradual? Were you aware of it happening? Or did it happen over time and then one morning you woke up and realized that you believed something different? What was the most important ingredient to this change of perspective?

On the other hand, think of something that you've never changed your beliefs about. How has that happened? Is it because you believe it so strongly that nothing could ever change that belief? Is it accidental? That is, if you went and researched more about it, do you think you might change your mind? Is it something that your family held to be true and that you've never questioned because no one has ever put you in the circumstances to question it?

Think of someone that believes the opposite thing that you do on this thing. Describe that person. Describe their perspective as best you can.

The three paragraphs above have a lot of questions in them. For the first two paragraphs, feel free to narrow in on one or two of these questions if that is helpful. I would like you to try to do both of the things in the last paragraph.

2. Read Chs. 4 and 5 of Benedict Carey's book *How We Learn*. They are respectively "Spacing Out" and "The Hidden Value of Ignorance" and this reading consists of about 42 pp, in about 8 sections. **To turn in:** Close the book and put it away. Briefly summarize these two chapters. What are three or four things that you can use in your own studies from these chapters?

3. Listen to the Freakonomics episode [How to Change Your Mind](#). This is roughly 45 minutes long. **To turn in:** What does listening to this podcast make you think about your answers to **1.**?