

Being Epistemically Responsible

- We should be concerned with striving to
 - Believe things that are likely true
 - Disbelieve things that are likely false
- These lead to better choices, which leads in turn to better living

Skepticism is...

- Reserving judgment where evidence is incomplete
- Reaching the conclusions best justified by the evidence...even if uncomfortable
- Key to productive conversations (because “I might be wrong”)

The Humble Skeptic...

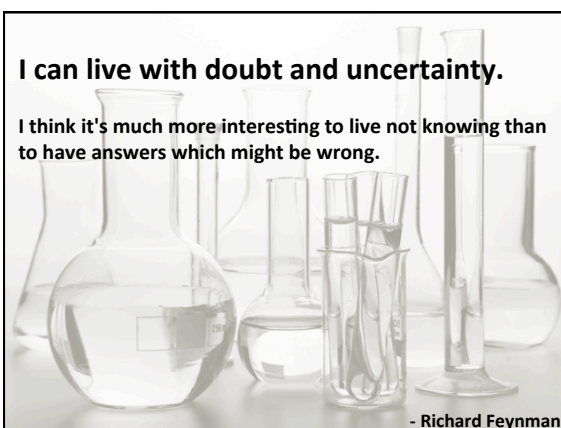
- Accepts ambiguity and uncertainty
- Recognizes limits of his/her knowledge
- Is okay with saying “I don’t know”
- Is willing to change his/her beliefs

The Non-Humble Skeptic...

- Lives in an echo chamber
- Is guilty of the disconfirmation bias
- Does not change beliefs when presented with better information
- Is a pathological, *not scientific*, skeptic

I can live with doubt and uncertainty.

I think it's much more interesting to live not knowing than to have answers which might be wrong.



- Richard Feynman

Growing Skepticism

- Applying your own skepticism and setting a good example
- Engage others in productive debate, not arguments

Rapoport's Rules

1. Attempt to re-express your target's position so clearly, vividly, and fairly that your target says, "Thanks, I wish I'd thought of putting it that way"
2. List any points of agreement (especially if they are not matters of general or widespread agreement)
3. Mention anything you have learned from your target
4. Only then are you permitted to say so much as a word of rebuttal or criticism

