

# Kentucky Class Notes

*Earn an A+ with Class Notes*  
*<http://KyClassNotes.com>*  
*859.252.NOTE*

**PSY 215 Friedrich**  
**Spring 2010**  
**Test 1**

---

1-20-10

## Ways of Knowing

- Authority
    - Authority is acceptance of ideas as valid knowledge because some respected source claims they are valid.
      - A good example of this would be how we learn from our parents and doctors. We trust their ideas.
    - “**EXPERT OPINION**” refers to the example above. We trust doctors because we believe they are experts in their field.
    - A pro to this way of knowing is that authorities pass on important information. It is a fast and safe way to acquire knowledge.
    - Some cons to this way of knowing are that information could be wrong, biased, or incomplete.
      - It is common for people to get 2<sup>nd</sup> opinions from other doctors.
      - Authority often discourages further questioning and evaluation.
  - Reasoning/Logic (Rationalism)
    - Knowledge is derived from reasoning.
    - Truth is deduced from some given evidence.
      - Example: All crows are black. This is a crow. Therefore, the crow is black.
    - A pro to this way of knowing is that reasoning may be sufficient to yield truth in some situations.
      - Deduction, which is much like reasoning, is part of the scientific method. However, the scientific method takes deduction a stop further through experiments and attempts to prove reasoning.
    - A con to this way of knowing is that reasoning alone is not sufficient.
      - Example: Brazilians are great soccer players. Andrea is Brazilian. Andrea must be a great soccer player.
        - This is not necessarily true.
  - Experience (empiricism)
    - Knowledge is derived through direct observation or experience.
-