

Short, Non-overreaching
Philosophy Q&A (GISTE and
Elliot Temple)

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Session 3

I was inspired to make this
mindmap while trying to
answer [this FI email](#).

The numbering system tells
you the chronological order
that I wrote the nodes.

Blue nodes are self-
discussion.

Grey connections indicate that
a node was sent to or
received from FI.

Gray nodes are messages
that were received from FI.

Blank nodes are markers
where more needs to be done.

1. How do you know which
ideas are good?
(Keep answers to 280 characters max.)

2. Trial answer 1 (280 char):
Ideas that I know are good are ones that I know refute all their rivals.
Rival ideas are ideas that are intended to solve the same problem, where that problem can only have one solution.
For an idea to refute all of its rivals, it must have non-refuted criticisms of those rivals.

3. Criticism of 1: what about a problem that accepts multiple solutions? Couldn't there be 2 or more good answers? yes. Those are good ideas.

4. Criticism of 2: But if they are all good, and you can only use one of them, or a small combination of them, then you don't know what to do yet, so they are all refuted. You need a way to break the symmetry, like you could flip a coin to choose between them.

5. Trial answer 2 (252 char):
not sure what you mean. ideas are intended to solve problems. I'm thinking of 2 types of problem:
Type1 can only have one correct solution (one good idea for said problem),
Type2 can have more than one correct solution (many good ideas for said problem).

6. Criticism of 4: maybe I can write an answer that deals with both types of problem.

7. Trial answer 3 (103 char):
Ideas that I know are good are ones that I know actually solve the problems they are intended to solve.

8. Criticism of 6: "This writing has a bunch of errors. It's one sentence which uses "that" three times (one of them implied) which makes it complicated. It also uses "ones" and "they" for references which makes it worse.
You should mostly write one-clause sentences, two tops. I think this kind of issue needs fixing before doing a philosophy discussion like this effectively." FI email

9. Conclusion: I agree. I'll try to use more sentences, less references, and more clear references.

10. I started reading Elliot's new email about *Using Questions in Thinking* and I immediately recognized a few things. One of those things is this. [[[post to fi and link here.]]]

11. Trial answer 4 (81 char):
Good ideas are ideas that actually solve the problems they are intended to solve.

12. Question re 11: Can I make it one clause per sentence instead of two clauses in one sentence?



13. Question re 11: Can I say it without the "they" reference so it's more clear what "they" refers to?

14. Answer to 13: Maybe I can say "those ideas" instead of "they".

15. Question re 14: Does that solve the problem?



16. Question re 11: Does this say all the things that the previous trial answer says (7)?

17. Answer to 16: No it doesn't. It's missing the parts where I know the ideas are good and I know the ideas actually solve the problems they are intended to solve.

18. Question re 17: How can I add it?

19. Answer to 18: Yes, like this: I know which ideas are good by using the following method. I check whether or not the ideas actually solve the problems they are intended to solve. If yes, then good. If no, then bad.

20. Conclusion: Use 19 as a trial answer.

21. Trial answer 5 (183 char):
I know which ideas are good by using the following method. I check whether or not the ideas actually solve the problems they are intended to solve. If yes, then good. If no, then bad.

22. Question re 21: Can I simplify this further?

23. Answer to 22: Yes, like this: Suppose I know that an idea actually solves the problem it's intended to solve. Then I know the idea is good.

24. Conclusion: Use 23 as a trial answer.

22. Trial answer 6 (109 char):
Suppose I know that an idea actually solves the problem it's intended to solve. Then I know the idea is good.

23. Question re 22: Can I simply this further?

24. Answer to 23: I currently don't know how to simplify it further.

25. Question re 22: Does this trial answer have any problems that any of the other previous trial answers had?

26. Answer to 25: No.

27. Conclusion: Post 22 to FI.