

In PrAlse of Skepticism

Trust is Important

Sometimes **trust** is enough
Sometimes **trust** is not enough

When **trust** is not enough,
healthy skepticism can help

TRUST

Trust is important...

- Individuals
- Relationships
- Leadership
- Businesses
- Innovation & Collaboration
- Technology
- Nations



"Trust is the glue of life."

-Stephen Covey, author

"Trust is one of the principal
forces which binds society
together."

-Thomas Hobbes, philosopher

"To be trusted
is a greater compliment
than being loved."

-George MacDonald, author

!! !!
...

-You

Trust is...

- n. Firm belief in the truth.
- n. Confidence or faith in a person or thing.
- n. Acceptance without evidence or investigation.



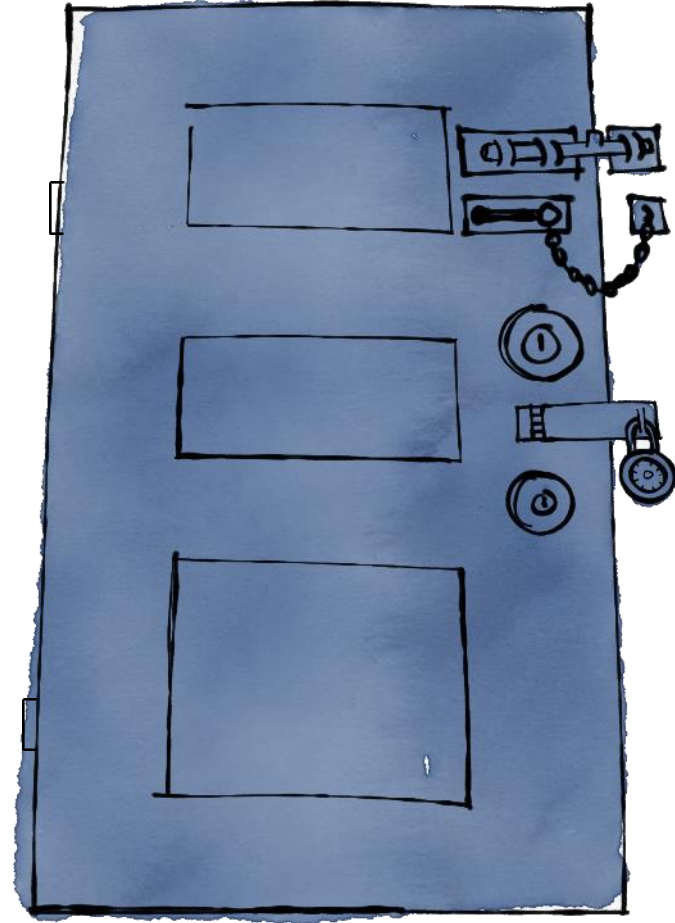


100% Trust

0% Trust

Dis/Mistrust is...

- n. Absence of trust; lack of confidence, faith
- n. Lack of trust or confidence; distrust.



Trust is...

- n. Firm belief in the truth.
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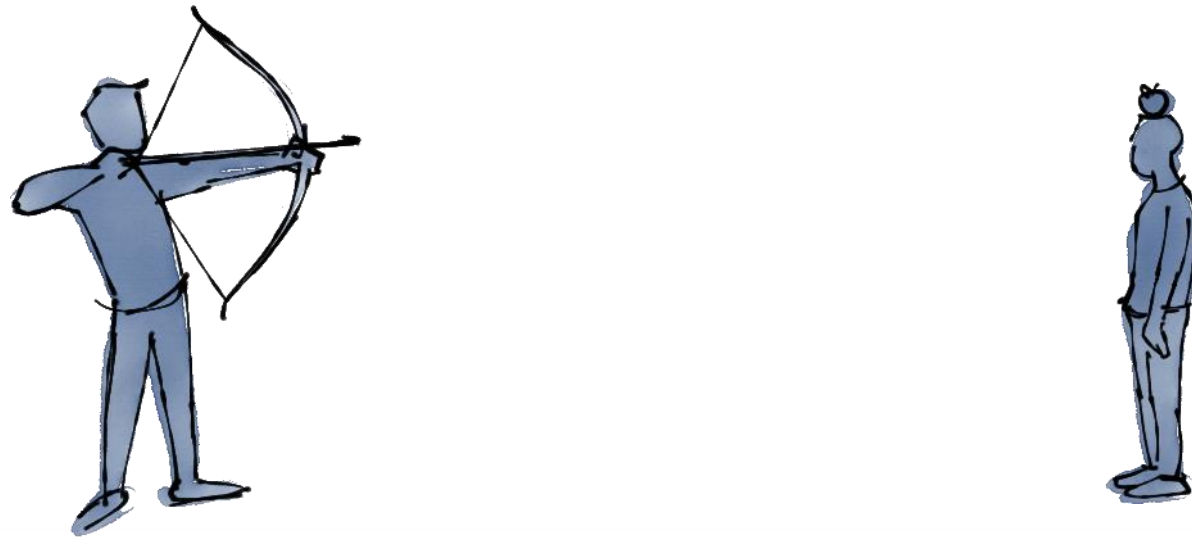
Trust is based on...

- Faith, mostly, but also...
- Emotions
- Intuition
- Authority
- Society
- Experience
- Evidence
- Mix



Trust is...

Predominantly faith-based
confidence and beliefs
in the absence of sufficient information.

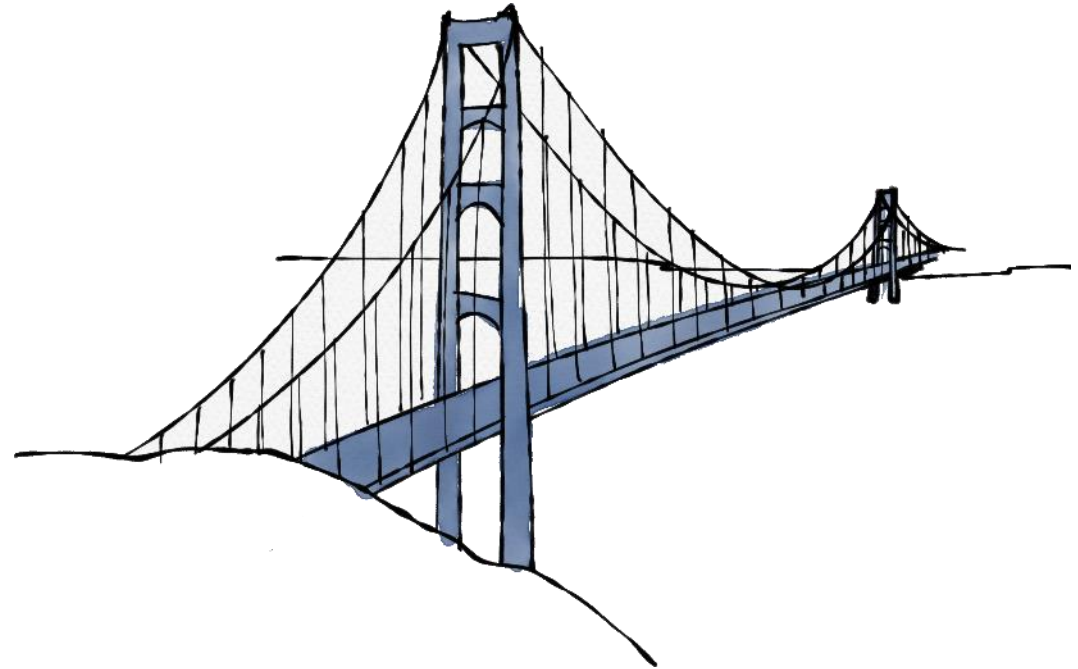


Beliefs based on...



Trust might be enough...

- Evidence expensive/scarce/absent



Trust might be enough...

- Evidence expensive/scarce/absent
- Known/Familiar



Trust might be enough...

- Evidence expensive/scarce/absent
- Known/Familiar
- In some contexts
 - Religious



Trust might be enough...

- Evidence expensive/scarce/absent
- Known/Familiar
- In some contexts
 - Religious
 - Artistic



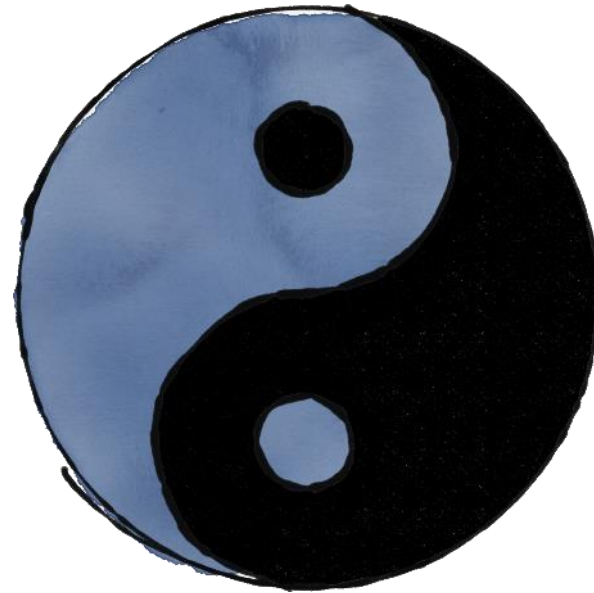
Trust might be enough...

- Evidence expensive/scarcely/absent
- Known/Familiar
- In some contexts
 - Religious
 - Artistic
 - Cultural



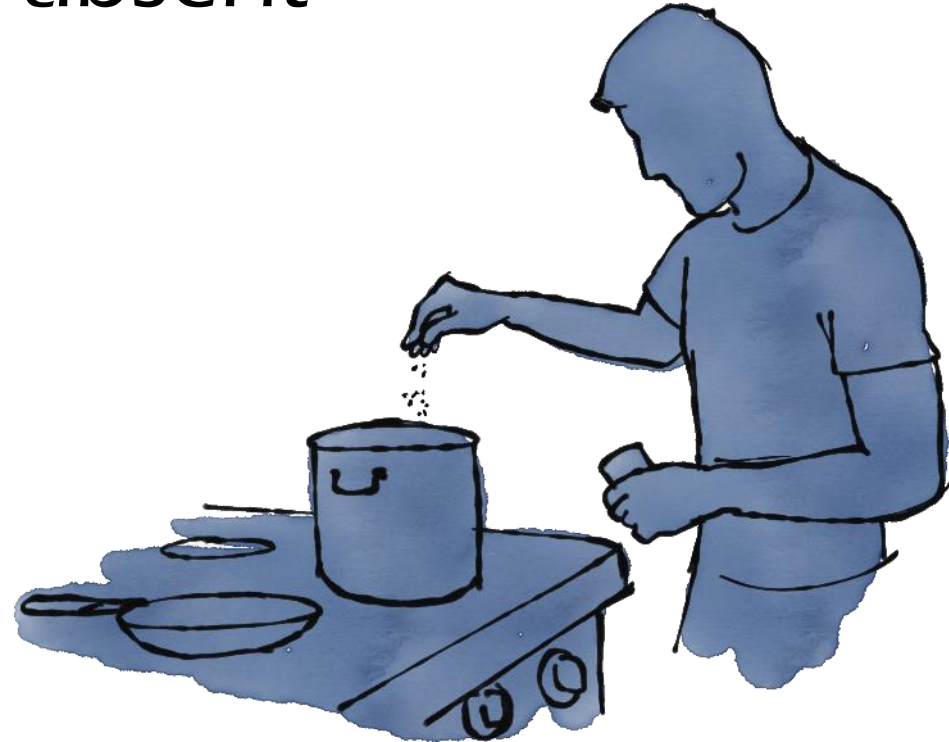
Trust might be enough...

- Evidence expensive/scarce/absent
- Known/Familiar
- In some contexts
 - Religious
 - Artistic
 - Cultural
 - Personal
 - Professional
 - Technology



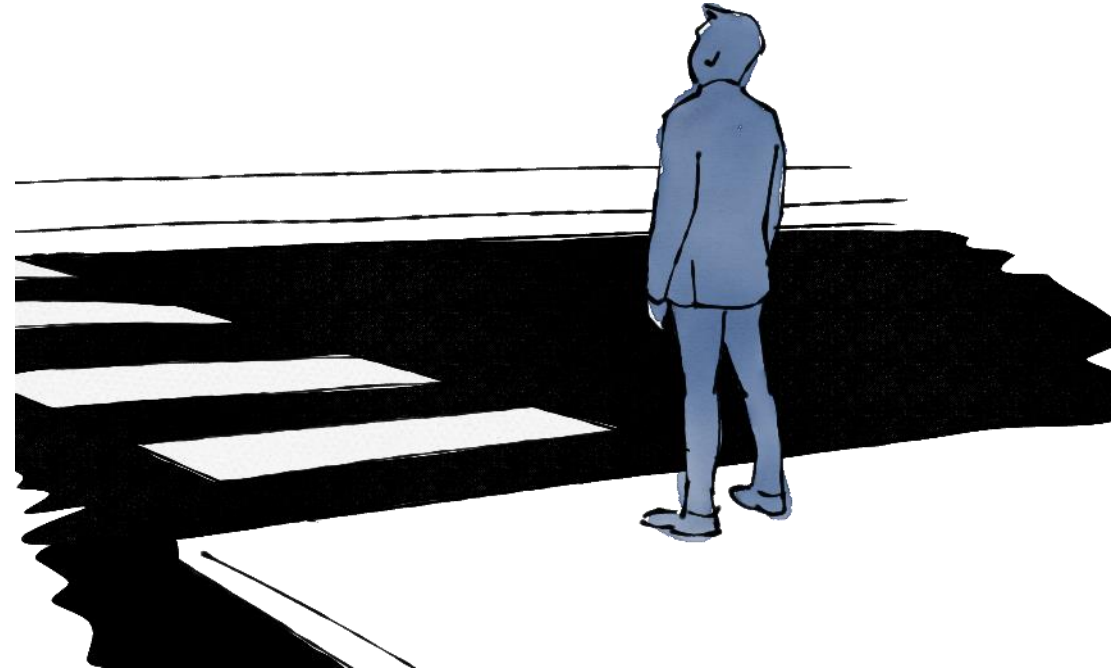
Trust might be enough...

- Evidence expensive/scarcely/absent
- Known/Familiar
- In some contexts
 - Religious
 - Artistic
 - Cultural
 - Personal
 - Professional
 - Technology
- **LOW RISK**



Trust might **NOT** be enough...

- Evidence cheap/abundant/available



Trust might **NOT** be enough...

- Evidence cheap/abundant/available
- Unknown/Unfamiliar



Trust might NOT be enough...

- Evidence cheap/abundant/available
- Unknown/Unfamiliar
- In some contexts
 - Legal



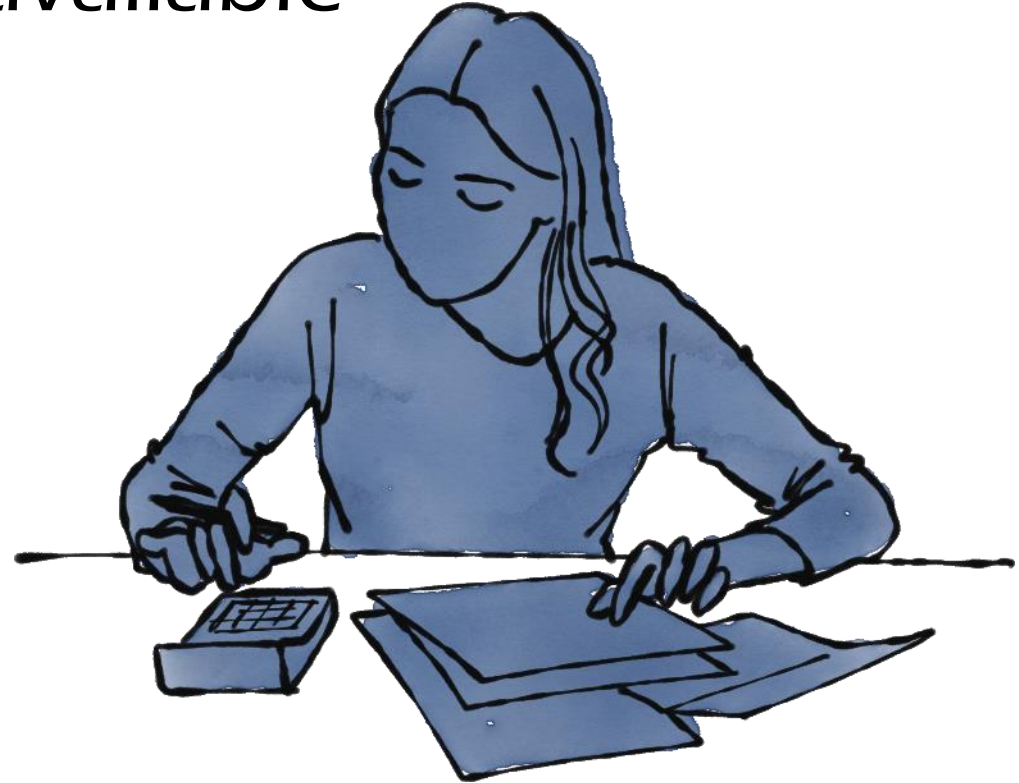
Trust might NOT be enough...

- Evidence cheap/abundant/available
- Unknown/Unfamiliar
- In some contexts
 - Legal
 - Medical



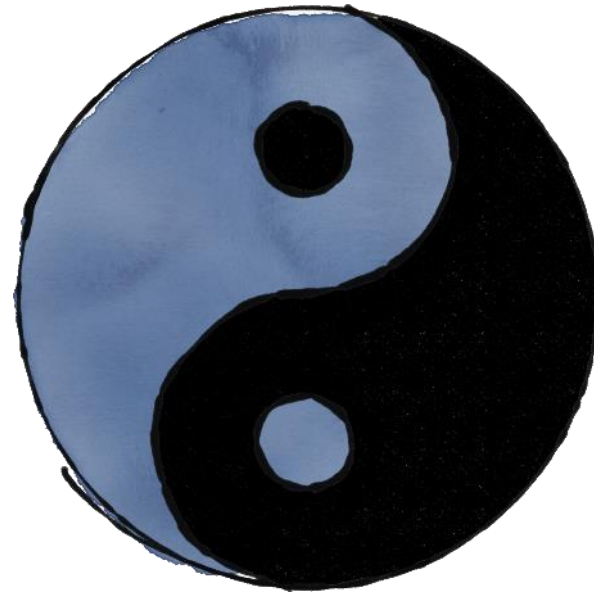
Trust might NOT be enough...

- Evidence cheap/abundant/available
- Unknown/Unfamiliar
- In some contexts
 - Legal
 - Medical
 - Financial



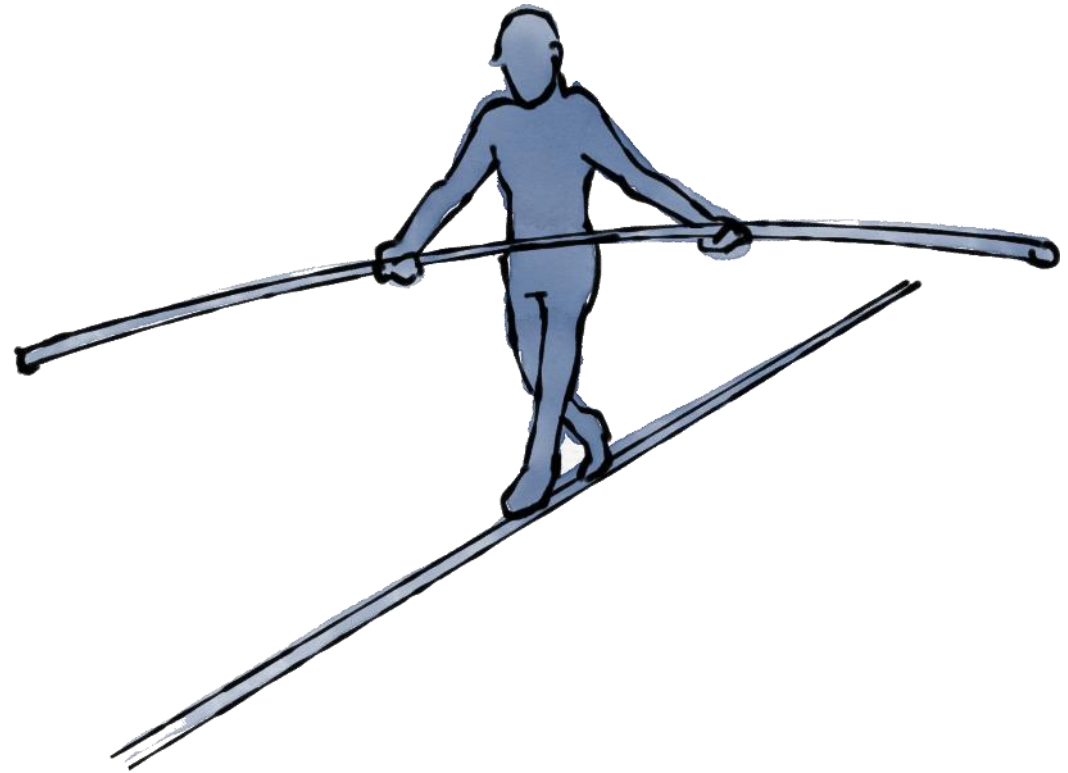
Trust might **NOT** be enough...

- Evidence cheap/abundant/available
- Unknown/Unfamiliar
- In some contexts
 - Legal
 - Medical
 - Financial
 - Personal
 - Professional
 - Technology



Trust might NOT be enough...

- Evidence cheap/abundant/available
- Unknown/Unfamiliar
- In some contexts
 - Legal
 - Medical
 - Financial
 - Personal
 - Professional
 - Technology
- **HIGH RISK**



"Trust, but **verify**."

-Ronald Reagan, US president

SKPTICISM

Skepticism is important...

- Encourages Critical Thinking
- Protects Against Deception
- Prevents Dogmatism
- Fosters Open-Mindedness
- Encourages Evidence-Based Decision Making



"There are two ways
to slide easily through life:
to believe everything or
to doubt everything;
both ways save us from **thinking**."

-Alfred Korzybski, scholar

"It is the mark of an
educated mind to be able to
entertain a thought
without accepting it."

-Aristotle, philosopher

"It pays to keep an open mind,
but not so open
your brains fall out."

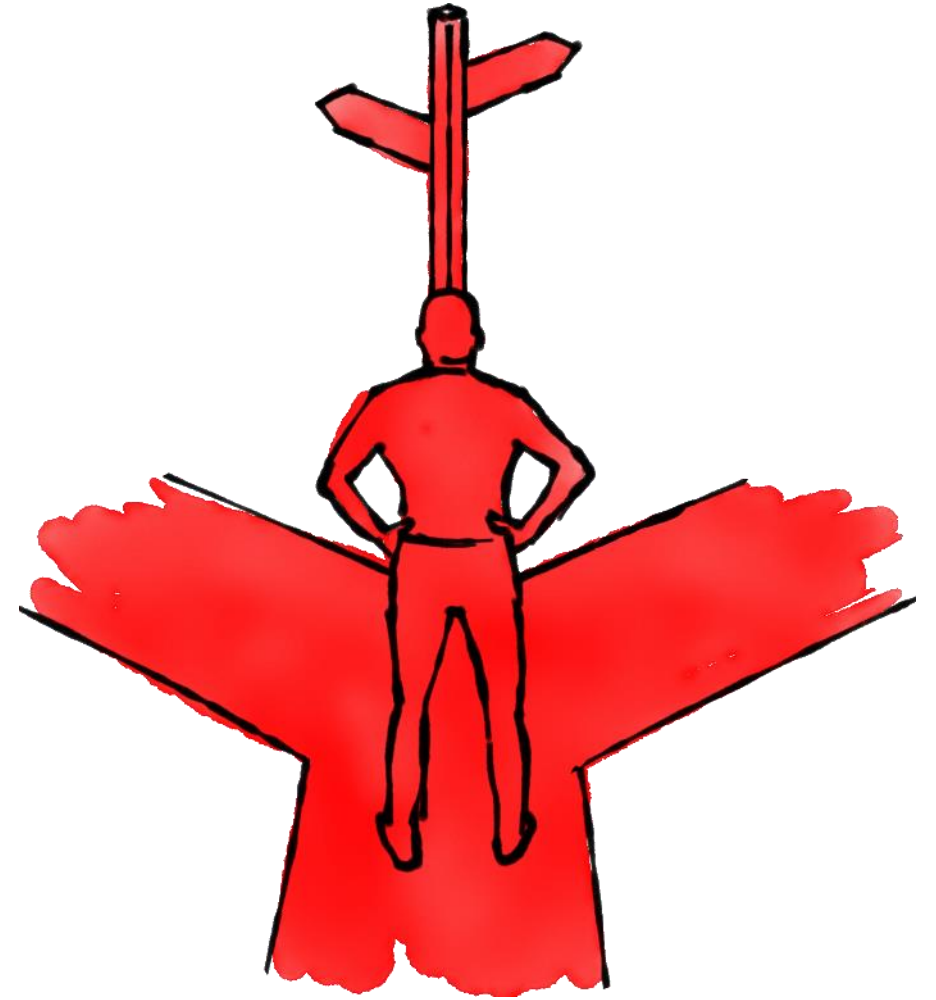
-Carl Sagan, astronomer

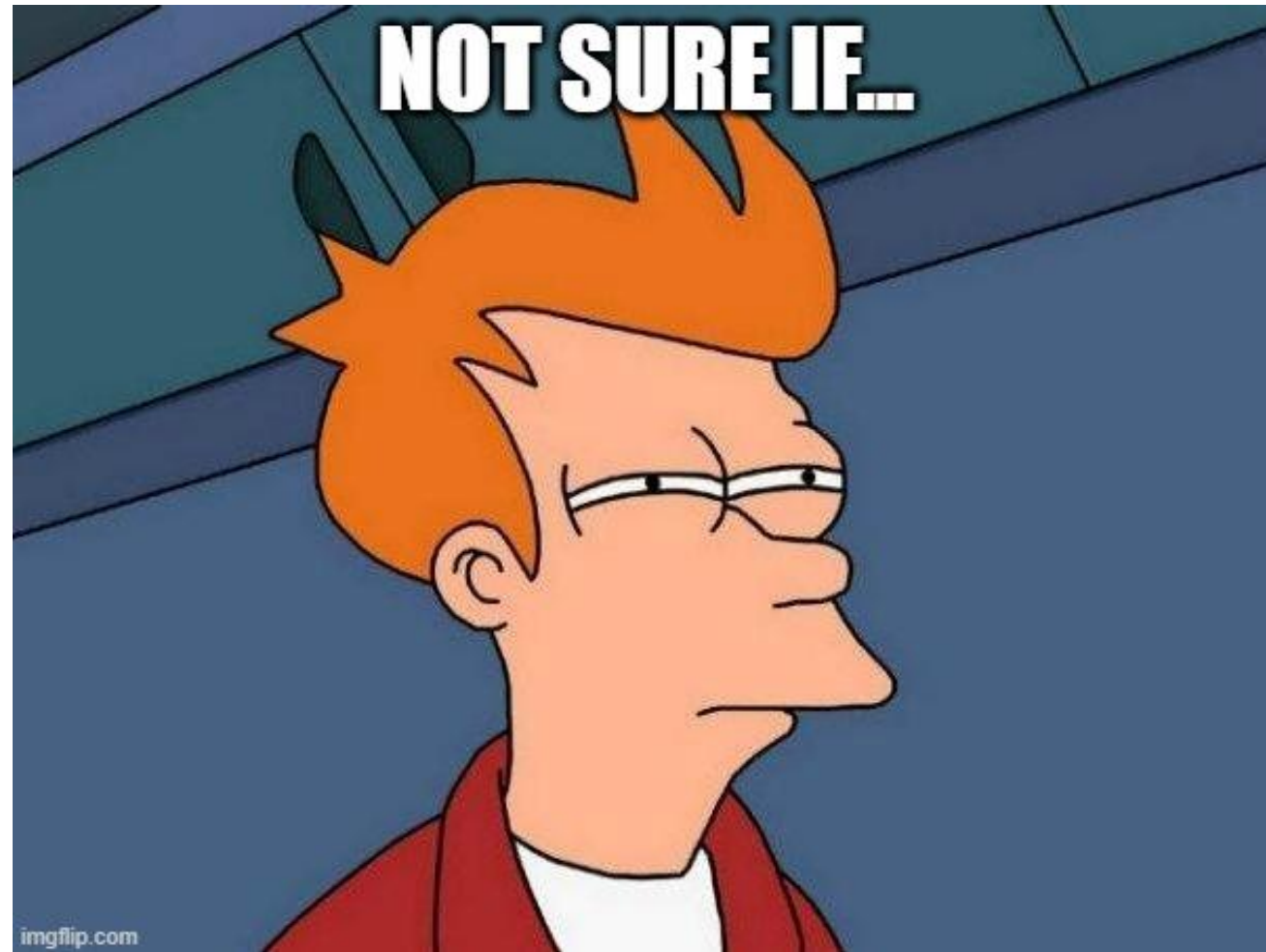
!! !!
...

-You

Skepticism is...

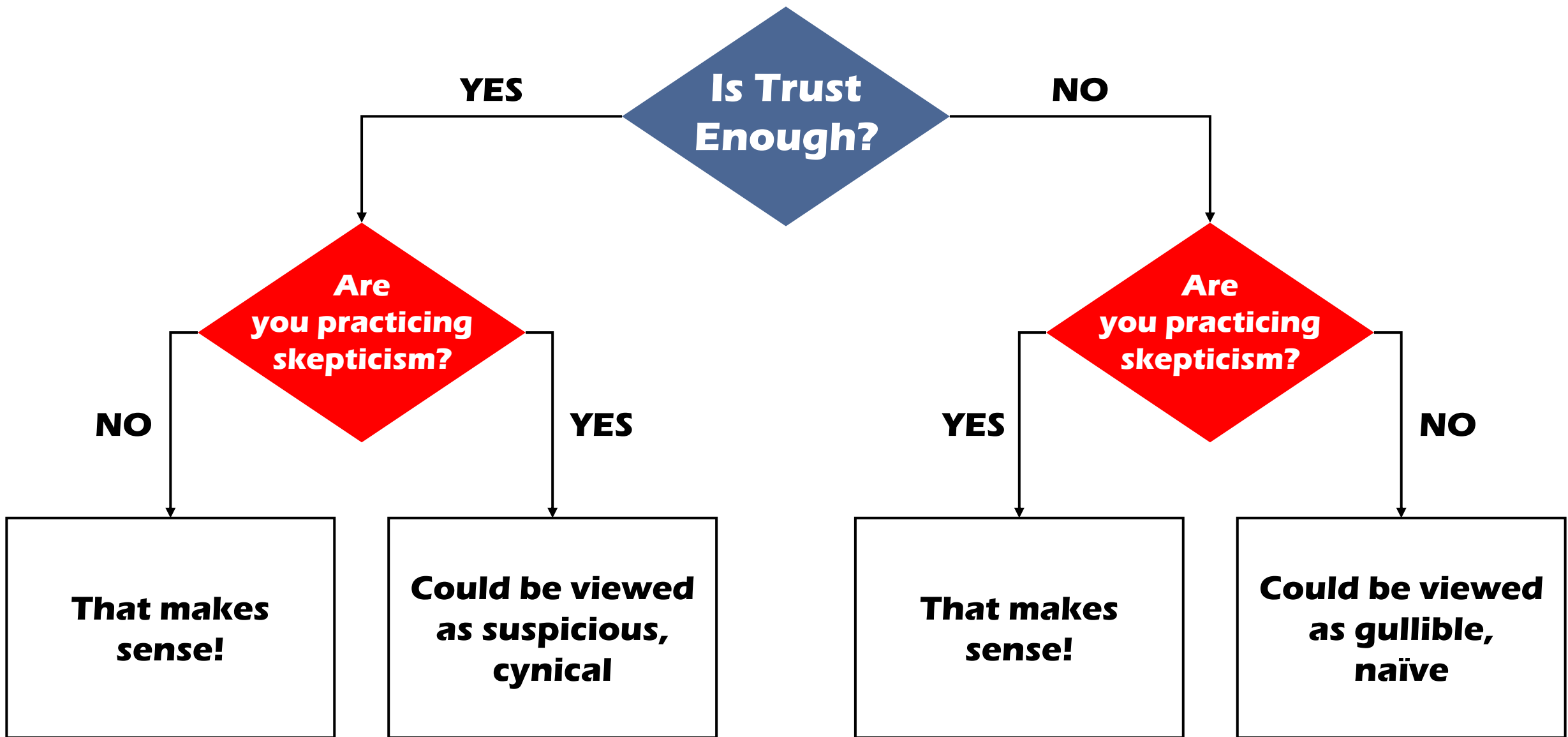
- n. Uncertainty or reservations about something
- n. A neutral stance that suspends belief until justified evidence is available.





"When nothing is sure,
everything is possible."

-Margaret Drabble, author



Healthy Skepticism is...

An approach that
questions
claims and ideas,
when appropriate,
and **uses evidence** to
evaluate their validity.



So, now what?!

Developing & Practicing HEALTHY SKEPTICISM

Healthy Skepticism is...

Verifying facts, cross-checking with other sources, seeking alternate views

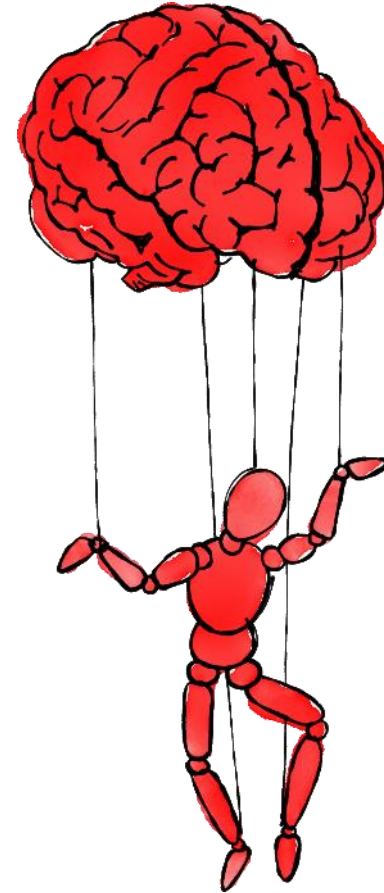


"Never trust anything that can
think for itself if you can't see
where it keeps its brain."

-Harry Potter, wizard

Healthy Skepticism is...

Being aware of
and managing
potential biases in
source and self

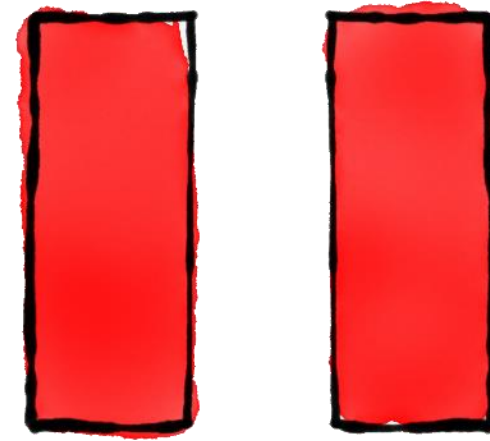


"Everyone is a prisoner of his own experience. No one can eliminate prejudices - just recognize them."

-Edward R. Murrow, journalist

Healthy Skepticism is...

Pausing

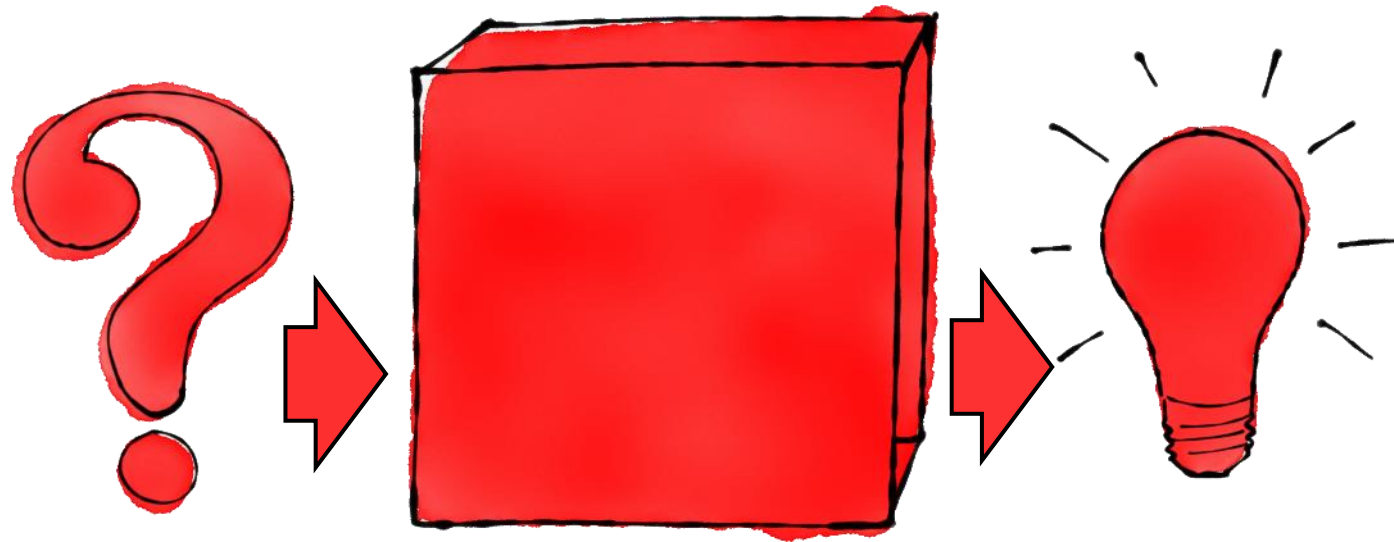


"Almost everything will work again if you unplug it for a few minutes, including you."

-Anne Lamott, novelist

Healthy Skepticism is...

Crafting and asking good questions



"There are no right answers
to wrong questions."

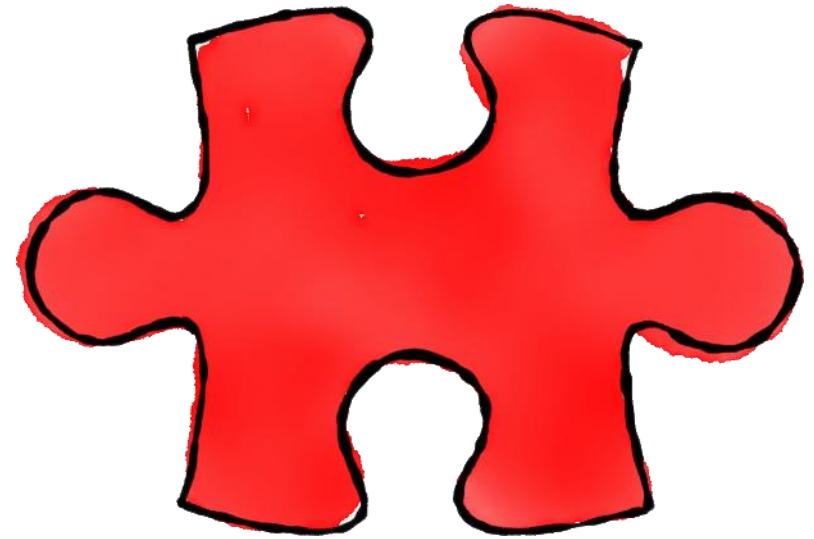
-Ursula K. Le Guin, author

"A prudent question
is one half of wisdom."

-Francis Bacon, statesman

Healthy Skepticism is...

Practicing and
Developing
critical thinking skills
(puzzles, debates,
reading, metacognition,
etc.)



“There are so many
notable quotes about
the importance of practice,
I couldn't decide
which ones to include.”

-Damian Synadinos, raconteur

In PrAlse of Skepticism

Trust is Important

Sometimes **trust** is enough
Sometimes **trust** is not enough

When **trust** is not enough,
Healthy Skepticism can help

"I just want ... **skepticism**
to be your companion
and not your captor."

-Wes Moore, US governor

Thank You!



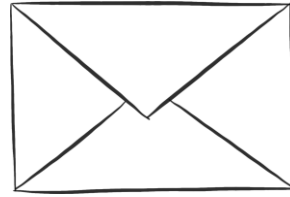
Damian Synadinos



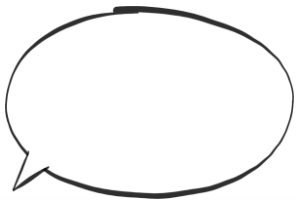
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"Hey, Damian!"



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