

Ebenezer .A. Boahen  
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### **Aristotle's View On Knowledge**

Aristotle's idea about knowledge and learning is based on three things. That's; induction, deduction, and intuition. He believes that mankind must have 'a starting point of knowledge before we can know anything.' "*...knowledge is superior to mere opinion, and that it needs to go beyond the particular to some more abstract level of rational justification.*"(pg. 18 Demonstrative Knowledge and It's Starting-Point.)

Aristotle's work is a testament to the belief that our thinking and practice must be infused with a clear philosophy of life. There has to be a deep concern for the ethical and political. We have continually to ask what makes for human flourishing? From this we should act to work for that which is good or 'right', rather than that which is merely 'correct'.

Along with many others in his time, he placed a strong emphasis on all round and 'balanced' development. Play, physical training, music, debate, and the study of science and philosophy were to all have their place in the forming of body, mind and soul. Like Plato, he saw such learning happening through life – although with different emphases at different ages.

He looked to both education through reason and education through habit. He meant learning by doing. Such learning is complemented by reason – and this involves teaching ‘the causes of things’.

Aristotle passed on to us the categorizing of disciplines into the theoretical, practical and technical. Aristotle’s legacy of knowledge is not an unproblematic one. There is much to dislike about some of his ideas and the way in which subordinated groups are excluded from the benefits of education in his thinking. However, the study of his thought remains deeply rewarding for many educators.

Unlike Aristotle, Rene Decartes argues about knowledge based on experience(*EMPIRICISM*). Descartes believes in acquiring knowledge through an inward approach, focusing on concepts, systems, rules, self-awareness and logical analysis(*RATIONALISM*). Descartes believes knowledge separates from experience. He did not believe that the information we receive through our senses is necessarily accurate. *“But from time to time I have found that senses deceive, and it is prudent never to completely trust those who deceive us even once”*(pg.22

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Descartes argues that he often dreams of things that seem real to him while he is asleep. In one dream, he sits by a fire in his room, and it seems he can feel the warmth of the fire, just as he feels it in his waking life, even though there is no fire. The fact that he feels the fire doesn’t really allow him to tell when he is awake and when he is dreaming. Moreover, if his senses can convey to him the heat of the fire when he does not really feel it, he can’t trust that the fire exists when he feels it in his waking life.

I personally succumb to Aristotle's view of knowledge and how to obtain to obtain it. Indeed we do learn by experience, and repeated memories of the thing gives us an experience of the very thing we are being exposed to. I don't think knowledge can ever be separated from experience, because there's nobody who gets better at anything or obtains a skill for any specific area by just "logical reasoning."