

**Do you think free societies need postmodernism or not? Why? What values do you find in their arguments?**

After watching the video entitled “Explaining Postmodernism in 2018” by Stephen Hicks, I have concluded that free societies need postmodernism, while at the same time I disagree that free societies need postmodernism. According to Stephen Hicks, postmodernism is a “sprawling label and an intellectual and cultural movement”. Postmodernists' general concept is to question the ideas and values associated with society to form their own opinion. Simply put, in a postmodernist society, individuals within that society are likely to be skeptical of the world they live in, and these individuals may choose to carry out their investigation to draw their own opinion or meaning of what they learn. Free society on the other hand is a society where individuals are free to live their lives how they like and act out of their own will.

I believe that we are currently living in a postmodernist society where skepticism, innovation, and diversity seem to be increasing. Our society is increasingly becoming more accommodating and welcoming to unconventional ideas and new ways of thinking while gradually neglecting the truths and claims that were traditional. This current society I believe does have its benefits, whereby individuals in society are becoming more forward-thinkers and are viewing claims and truths from an evidence-based lens to develop better knowledge about a subject, issue, or revelation. Stephen in his presentation encourages us that “we ought to reason fundamentally”, and as a social worker who understands the importance of evidence-based practice, I do see the importance of skepticism, fundamental reasoning, and taking a scientific approach as postmodernists propose. I believe that postmodernity in a free society is not a threat

as individuals in a free society will still have the freedom to act out of their own will to carry out their investigation about what is “true”.

On the contrary, while I believe that free societies to an extent need postmodernism to promote forward-thinking and evidence-based practices, I also believe that postmodernism in a free society can also erase absolute truths, causing free societies to ignore their ideals, values, and truth that they were built on. For example, postmodernists argue that we must not believe “grand stories” that tell us how things are. Postmodernists also argue that the existence of God is one of those “grand stories” that we must be skeptical about because “truth” is a thing of this world. Therefore, having recognized that postmodernism in a free society may erase absolute truths and universal truths and beliefs, I believe that free societies are better without postmodernism.