

The Relativity of Wrong Questions and Reflection

- 1) What did the English Literature major think was most likely true about modern “knowledge”.
- 2) What did Asimov mean when he said “your view is wronger than both of them put together.”
- 3) What is the curvature of Earth per mile?
- 4) Why does Asimov think the flat Earth theory lasted as long as it did?
- 5) Give 4 observations that are better explained by a spherical Earth than a flat Earth.
 - i.
 - ii.
 - iii.
 - iv.
- 6) What circumference for the Earth did Eratosthenes calculate?
- 7) Why isn't the Earth a true sphere as the Law of Gravity predicts? (Hint: discuss centrifugal force)
- 8) How much does the Earth deviate from a true sphere?
- 9) What is the currently accepted shape of the Earth?
- 10) How wrong is the oblate-spheroid shape of the Earth?

11) Explain what Asimov means when he says, "Theories are not so much wrong as incomplete."

The basic trouble, you see, is that people think that "right" and "wrong" are absolute; that everything that isn't perfectly and completely right is totally and equally wrong.

12) Write a reflection on the statement above. In your reflection consider the nature of science, science literacy in the public, and the importance of science literacy. **200 word minimum.**