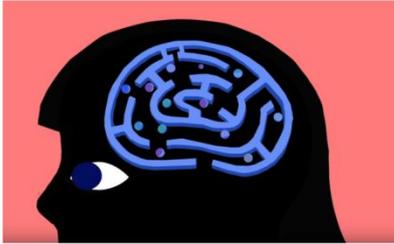




A thought-provoking look into whether or not conscious experience falls within physical description & measurement



Mary's Room: A philosophical thought experiment – Eleanor Nelsen

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mGYmiQkah4o&feature=share&fbclid=IwAR39UCxK0xn_WB-9Dysi_dCVYbPO4tQouSEjPZky8Ord0WB_RmFqZ64Z9VM

Possible vocabulary to pre-teach:

measurable consciousness a mental state definitive answer

TEACHING SUGGESTION



Set up the activity / activities in any way you feel which would suit your and your students' needs and interests. The following is one idea that you could pursue if it appeals to you. (NOTE: Be careful of what vocabulary to pre-teach if you ask students to make predictions.)



Ask the question before viewing the next section

Tell the students that they are about to watch a video about Mary's room. Ask them to make predictions about the theme of the video. After a few have been made, tell them to

- Q:** a) watch to see how close their predictions were and
- b) find out what is special about Mary.

0:00 – 0:50 **A:** *Mary lives in a black and white room (world) but is an expert on the science of colour*

Q: How is the knowledge argument (KA) different from the theory of physicalism (TP)?

0:50 – 2:08 **KA =** *There are non-physical properties & knowledge which can only be discovered through conscious experience. (ex: appreciating colour)*

TP = *Everything, including mental states, has a physical explanation*

Q: What do you call subjective qualities that you can't accurately describe or measure?

2:09 – 2:59 **Qualia**(ex: having an itch, being in love or feeling bored)

Q: Do scientists and philosophers agree on whether Mary would learn anything new when she sees the red apple?

2:09 – 4:31 **No**

POSSIBLE DISCUSSION THEMES:



- What are some other examples of Qualia? (ex: love, peace of mind, pain, fear, a revelation, hunger)
- Will any of those become completely understood, describable and measurable over time?
- Do you think it is inevitable that we will become cyborgs, and could that also enhance our mental states or raise our consciousness?
- Do you think it'll be possible to know what another person is thinking and feeling?



Check Max's English Corner for more videos and ideas. New Cool Clips will continue to be added on the website.

