

The Joy of Being Wrong

Facilitation Guide

What is it?

This 3-minute narrated animation discusses the way that intellectual humility helps us grow and change and, by extension, helps our community grow and change with us. Use this video to prompt discussions about how intellectual humility can help us understand our own beliefs better and lead us toward more sustainable innovation.

Why use it?

Within the framework of Principled Innovation, the asset of humility is defined in this way:

"Humility is being honest with ourselves about what we can offer, acknowledging that there's always more to learn, with a genuine desire to advance the best interests of the community."



Humility is closely linked to Principled Innovation Practices **M1** ("Identify and acknowledge fundamental values") and **M2** ("Utilize moral and ethical decision making") and to the Civic asset of Perspective-Taking. Adopting an open stance toward the viewpoints of others helps us hear others' values, and hearing others' values is, in turn, a building block to moral ethical decision-making (Practice **M2**). The success of Principled Innovation hinges upon adopting a receptive stance that recognizes "that there's always more to learn" from hearing the values and **perspectives** of stakeholders (Practices **M1** and **C2**) and that is willing to use this information to understand "the best interests of the community."

As shown in this video, *intellectual humility* addresses some of the cognitive patterns that block our openness to being corrected and to forming a more complete understanding of the social context in which principled innovation happens. Ultimately, the discipline of intellectual humility can help reshape and improve the accuracy of our beliefs. Engaging in intellectual humility can be painful, and it is natural to become defensive when someone challenges our assumptions, but it is ultimately productive.

Use this video to introduce the concept of intellectual humility and prompt a discussion about how intellectual humility helps innovators form a more accurate understanding of the challenges that need to be addressed in a community.

What you need

- Time: 10 minutes of participants' time
- Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mRXNUx4cua0&t=36s>
- Individual activity or group participants

Instructions

Step 1: Situate

Begin by explaining that you will be looking at the Principled Innovation Moral asset of Humility. Display the definition of the term as it is defined within the framework:

"Humility is being honest with ourselves about what we can offer, acknowledging that there's always more to learn, with a genuine desire to advance the best interests of the community."

Then, ask them to watch the video while considering how intellectual humility could help prepare a principled innovator for understanding the values of a community (Practice **M1**) and for making ethical decisions about what types of changes should be pursued (Practice **M2**). Then, play the video.

Step 2: Discuss

Using the content under the “Why Use It?” section above as a framework for guiding this short discussion, consider asking the following questions:

1. Why is it so painful to find out we’re wrong?
2. In what ways is pride a self-protective reaction?
3. What are some examples from history in which people--or societies--have been too slow to face the truth and hurt themselves and others as a result?
4. How do our biases affect our understanding of the needs of a learning community?
5. What are four examples of areas in which our biases might make it difficult to truly understand the values and concerns of our students’ families?
6. How can intellectual humility help us provide more effective solutions to help our learners flourish—or, in the terms of Principled Innovation, to effect positive change for humanity?