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27 MAY 10 Trial and Error SAVE | SHARE 5

Many of us consider science the most reliable, accountable way of explaining how the world works. We trust it. Should we? John Ioannidis, an epidemiologist, recently concluded that most articles published by biomedical journals are flat-out wrong. The sources of error, he found, are numerous: the small size of many studies, for instance, often leads to mistakes, as does the fact that emerging disciplines, which lately abound, may employ standards and methods that are still evolving. Finally, there is bias, which Ioannidis says he believes to be ubiquitous. Bias can take the form of a broadly held but dubious assumption, a partisan position in a longstanding debate (e.g., whether depression is mostly biological or environmental) or (especially slippery) a belief in a hypothesis that can blind a scientist to evidence contradicting it. These factors, Ioannidis argues, weigh especially heavily these days and together make it less than likely that any given published finding is true.

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24 MAY 10 OpenTheGovernment.org - Let's Reverse the Pattern of Secrecy SAVE | SHARE 237

Let's Reverse the Pattern of Secrecy

Concerned that our government keeps from the American public information that we need to make our families safe, secure our country and strengthen democracy, a broad-based set of organizations formed OpenTheGovernment.org. We hope you'll help.

Watch here for our 2009 Year End Report
Watch for our 2010- 2012 Strategic Plan

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22 MAY 10 The Two Most Dangerous Words in Medicine are "Studies Show." | The Quackometer SAVE | SHARE

SAVE | SHARE

Jerry Adlner has published his New Year's resolution in Newsweek,

I will not report on any amazing new treatments for anything, unless they were tested in large, randomized, placebo-controlled, double-blind clinical trials published in high-quality peer-reviewed medical journals. If that means not telling NEWSWEEK's readers about, say, a new magnetized-water cure for osteoporosis, cancer and autism—well, there are infomercials to fill that gap. The risk that I might overlook the next Lipitor is outweighed by the danger of hyping the next laetrile, the discredited 1970s-era miracle cancer drug made from apricot pits that failed to cure Steve McQueen.

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Amazon.com: Snake Oil Science: The Truth about Complementary and... SAVE | SHARE 4

A biostatistician, author and Senior Research Methodologist at the University of Maryland, Bausell looks at the alternative methods used by more than 36 percent of Americans to treat pain and illness by posing the question, "Is any complementary and alternative medical therapy more effective than a placebo?" In short, his answer is no. He wrote the book to

educate journalists and the public that "just because someone with a Ph.D. or M.D. performs a clinical trial doesn't mean that [it] possesses any credibility whatsoever ... The vast majority are worse than worthless." The problem, he says is that,

researchers, even those without a direct financial stake in the outcome of a trial, often have a psychological investment in what they're testing. Their papers get published because the editors of journals in fields like homeopathy start from the premise that the whole thing isn't a preposterous hoax, as Bausell and most mainstream doctors believe.

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Who is to Blame for Bad Health Journalism? | The Quackometer SAVE | SHARE

"Fiona Fox, Director of the Science Media Centre, has been complaining that blogs are not real journalism. She appears to be upset that bloggers are supposedly claiming to be better than journalists and that such sentiment might undermine the fragile existence of science journalism in the media. Comments quickly filled her article suggesting blogs are journalism and that she is confusing a technology medium with an approach to writing – a theme picked up by the blog, LayScience. And, for me, this is where I would challenge Fox. There is much good journalism out there – but it can also be appalling, unreliable, contrived, fabricated and daft. The context of journalistic writing that is supposed to provide the balances, checks, and editing – the distinction that might afford them the credibility of being regarded as providing 'public record' – so often, quite obviously, fails."

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Our mission statement is:

"Promoting critical thinking, education, and informed citizenship by presenting controversial issues in a straightforward, nonpartisan primarily pro-con format."

We accomplish our mission by researching issues that we feel are controversial and important, and we work to present them in a balanced, comprehensive, straightforward, and primarily pro-con format. Our sites are free, require no registration, and have no advertising.

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06 APR 10 [Global Issues : social, political, economic and environmental issues that affect us all —](#)

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Welcome to the global issues web site. This site presents numerous global issues, aiming to show how they are inter-related. For cause and effect essay ideas, type "cause" or "effect" in this site's search box.

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[Cause Effect Essays Topics - Great Selection of Cause Effect Sample Topics for Your Paper!](#) [SAVE](#) | [SHARE](#)

Prior to writing on one of the cause and effect essay topics you should establish cause and effect connection between two objects or things. You have to focus on the reasons why things happen, their influence on society or nature and consequences they cause. So, writing on one of the cause effect essays topics is concerned with why things happen (causes) and what happens as a result (effects). While exploring the causes and effects of the things you ought to define their order very clearly. Actually, cause and effect is a common method of organizing and discussing ideas.

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28 MAR 10 [The Bell Policy Center](#) [SAVE](#) | [SHARE](#)

A progressive vision

The Bell Policy Center is committed to making Colorado a state of opportunity for all. We seek to reinvigorate the debate on issues affecting the well-being of Coloradans and to promote policies that open gateways to opportunity. The nonprofit Bell Policy Center is committed to identifying and promoting policies that help individuals and families access opportunity and move toward self-sufficiency.

Specifically, we:

- * Work with Coloradans across the political spectrum to identify critical policy issues.
- * Conduct nonpartisan research on issues that impact many Coloradans.
- * Draw on the expertise of a strong staff and a wide network of supporters and consultants.
- * Share the results of our research with policy-makers, community leaders and the people of Colorado to encourage responsible public dialogue and debate.
- * Make policy recommendations and advocate for changes that will increase opportunities for individuals and families

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