

xkcd: Questions
DISC 1312-056 / Professor Goldsmith

Due: 8/4/2013

A recent installment of the webcomic xkcd comprises a variety of "why" questions suggested by Google autocomplete. The questions have been transcribed at the "explain xkcd" wiki, and answered at various places on the internet.

We're going to answer them, too—well, one question each—but we're going to answer them incorrectly.

Your answer should do two things simultaneously: it should be patently and outrageously false, and it should be as plausible and convincing as possible. Your audience—in this case, your classmates—should know that your answer is totally wrong, but still believe it when they're done reading.

This is probably going to be difficult. Think carefully about your diction, sentence structure, and the overall organization of your answer—what, aside from content, makes a convincing explanation *convincing*? Consider, also, what sort(s) of appeal(s) you're going to make, and be intentional about making it/them.

Ask questions if you have them.

Bring a printed copy of your answer to class on Wednesday, Sept. 4. The question you're answering should appear in place of a title.