

# Big Ideas from Kuhn

Board Notes from October 11, 2005

## Group 1

- Scientific revolutions exist
- Scientific anomalies are hard to accept as part of the paradigm

## Group 2

- Paradigm shifts exist and are opposed by normal science
- Paradigm shifts are formed from unresolved anomalies

## Group 3

- Science under a paradigm is conservative (phenomenon of resistance)
- Normal science articulates a paradigm, extraordinary science focuses on anomalies

## Group 4

- Normal science vs. extraordinary science
- Society works to maintain the paradigm

## Group 5

- Importance of normal science and continuous research
- Normal science → anomalies → extraordinary science → paradigm shift

## Group 6

- Science/people are resistant to change
- Science is prone to change, and it progresses

## Group 7

- The differences between normal and extraordinary science
- The timing of new scientific discoveries. Tipping point idea.

## Group 8

- Scientific revolutions (paradigm shifts) are natural and necessary for growth
- Outside of a paradigm shift, scientific knowledge is not cumulative

## Trish/Larry Comments + Class Discussion

- Belief: Think about the role of belief in maintaining a paradigm and in creating a new one
- Progress: Kuhn argues that science “progresses” from a primitive state, but not toward anything (analogy to process of natural selection in Darwin’s theory of evolution).
- What is the goal of science?
- Does science progress toward “truth”? What means “truth”?