

Reading Questions for October 31

These questions cover a book chapter by Robert N. Proctor called “Agnology.” The answers do not have to be turned in. Proctor writes in a conversational style, so you will probably only have to do the reading once to get the answers (though some parts may require a second read).

*Background:*

This book chapter is from a book is called *Agnology, The Making and Unmaking of Ignorance*. Proctor is especially interested in the history and philosophy of science, as you will see from his examples. The chapter you are reading is the first one in the book. So in addition to making his own points, Proctor is trying to introduce some of the main issues and questions that will be discussed in the other parts of the book.

*Questions:*

1. Suppose you had to offer a quick summary of the chapter to a peer who hadn't read it. What would you say? Make sure to define key terms!
2. Proctor talks about several different types of ignorance and raises a number of questions about ignorance. Pick a question or topic and tell me how it connects with your own life and/or what you would add to what he says about it.