

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Intro to College Lit—Ms. Mitchell  
Period: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Inventory of Attitudes about Truth

**Below are several statements in a line of reasoning consistent with a particular way of understanding truth. For each statement, please indicate whether you agree or disagree with each statement and provide at least one reason, explanation, or example to illustrate your response.**

1. There is a stable, coherent, knowable self. This self is conscious, rational, autonomous, and universal—no physical conditions or differences substantially affect how this self operates.

*Agree or Disagree?*

*Why?*

2. This self knows itself and the world through reason, or rationality, which is the highest and only truly objective form of mental functioning.

*Agree or Disagree?*

*Why?*

3. Reason leads to science, which can provide universal truths about the world, regardless of the individual status of the knower.

*Agree or Disagree?*

*Why?*

4. The knowledge produced by science is "truth," and is eternal.

*Agree or Disagree?*

*Why?*

5. The knowledge/truth produced by science will always lead toward progress and perfection. All human institutions and practices can be analyzed by science (reason/objectivity) and improved.

*Agree or Disagree?*

*Why?*

6. Reason is the ultimate judge of what is true, and therefore of what is right, and what is good (what is legal and what is ethical). Freedom consists of obedience to the laws that conform to the knowledge discovered by reason.

*Agree or Disagree?*

*Why?*

7. In a world governed by reason, the true will always be the same as the good and the right (and the beautiful); there can be no conflict between what is true and what is right (etc.).

*Agree or Disagree?*

*Why?*

8. Science thus stands as the paradigm for any and all socially useful forms of knowledge (meaning it's the only way to know anything useful). Science is neutral and objective; scientists, those who produce scientific knowledge through their unbiased rational capacities, must be free to follow the laws of reason, and not be motivated by other concerns (such as money or power).

*Agree or Disagree?*

*Why?*

9. Language, or the mode of expression used in producing and disseminating knowledge, must be rational also. To be rational, language must be transparent (not hiding anything or allowing for any misinterpretations); it must function only to represent the real/perceivable world which the rational mind observes. There must be a firm and objective connection between things that are perceived and the words used to name them.

*Agree or Disagree?*

*Why?*