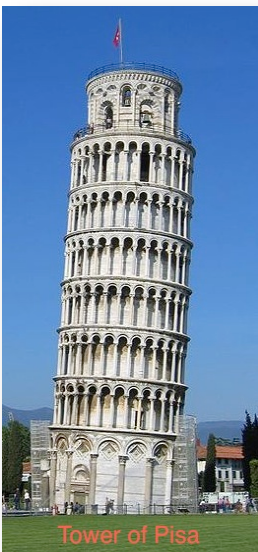


Foundations in History and Literature Assignment #2

- Memorize “The Echoing Green” by William Blake, stanza 1.
- Memorize Quotation #2 by Francis Bacon (Pictured on the right). Francis Bacon (1561–1626) is famous for having introduced the “scientific method” to a superstitious Western world through a work titled *Novum Organum*, which means “a new instrument.” What was the new instrument? It was *inductive reasoning*, while the old instrument was logic or deductive reasoning. Inductive reasoning involves reasoning from specific examples or repeated experiments.



For example, if we repeatedly throw different objects down from the Tower of Pisa ([see video](#)) and note how fast they fall, we can make specific conclusions as to *what* causes them to fall faster or more slowly. We would see that heavier weights do *not* fall faster than lighter weights. (Does that surprise you?)



Deductive reasoning, on the other hand, is logic. It is reasoning not based on *specific examples*, but led from *general ideas*. It works from a general idea and “leads down” to a specific conclusion. Let us look at the following example of deductive reasoning, called a *syllogism*:

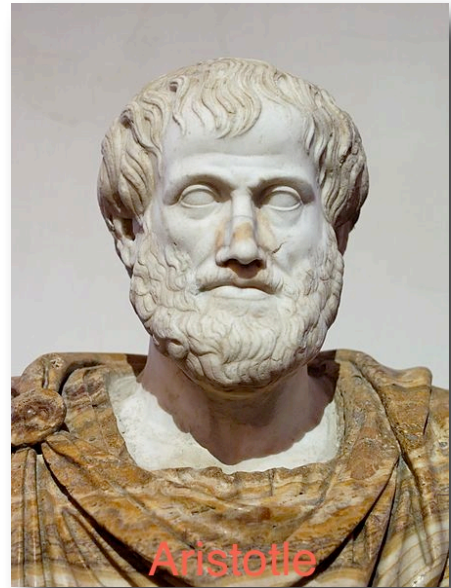
General idea: All piano players wear green clothes in the Foundations class.

Specific case: Sarah, Eileen and Anna are wonderful piano players.

Conclusion: Sarah, Eileen and Anna wear green clothes in the Foundations class.

If the general idea and the specific case are true, then the conclusion must be true. But what if either the general idea or specific case is not true? What if it isn’t true that all piano players wear green in the Foundations class? Then, your conclusion might be incorrect!

In the Middle Ages, people drew false conclusions of the world because the conclusions were based on false ideas. Many of the ideas of the Middle Ages came from the writings of the ancient Greeks, especially the philosopher Aristotle, who was a very clever man but wrong in many of his scientific assertions. For example, philosophers of the Middle Ages taught that a stone returned to the earth when thrown upward because it was made of earthly stuff, while the heavenly objects, such as stars, stayed in the sky because they were made of heavenly stuff. This idea was based on what Aristotle taught. Bacon taught, however, that an idea should not be considered true just because it had been written down by wise men. Ideas, he said, must be tested through repeated experiments, so that we can arrive at truth. Bacon believed that the truth could make people's lives better.



Francis Bacon was a very wise man. His talents and wisdom were so outstanding that some people said that he was the real writer of the plays *Hamlet*, *Romeo and Juliet*, and *King Lear*, which most people believe were written by William Shakespeare. Bacon is not only known today as a clever scientist but also as a clever writer. His essays are still read and admired today. The quotation you are memorizing is from one of Bacon's essays titled "Adversity." The essay explains that adversity, or the "bad" things in life, are really not that bad when we look at what they bring in our lives. When we experience bad things, we get virtue, such as fortitude, or endurance. In other words, when bad things happen in our lives, we learn not to give up and to continue through suffering, pain or misfortune with the hope for better days to come. Does that sound wise to you?

- Memorize the vocabulary for *Greek History at the Time of the Peloponnesian War* (Part 1) by H. A. Guerber in your study guide and read the text in your reader. Then, answer the Multiple-Choice Questions and do the identification.
- Complete the Grammar 1 in your Grammar and Poetics book.