

Instructions: Do the reading, then go through the questions, think about them, referring back to the reading when necessary, and write short answers (ranging between 1-2 sentences and couple paragraphs) for each. (If you feel you addressed one question in an answer to another, feel free just to refer to that.) Turn in your answers on the day the reading is due. You may discuss these questions with others but all answers should be written in your words (though you may use occasional quotes).

To be turned in:

1. What are your overall thoughts on Chapter 9?
2. What was the main point of Chapter 9?
3. What are your overall thoughts on Chapter 10?
4. Evaluate Silver's statement: *Almost all professional poker players begin their careers on winning streaks.* Is this true? If so, do you think they start on winning streaks because they are lucky or because they are better?
5. Does Figure 10-8 suggest that poker is a game of skill or a game of chance? Does the distribution provide evidence for or against the "Pareto Principle of Prediction"?
6. Do you agree that there is no (or very little) correlation in Figure 10-9? Can you think of reasons why the data looks the way it does? (For instance, can you explain the empty areas of the graph?)
7. Why is there so much variation in poker winnings for a given player?
8. Silver basically admits he was a decent but not great poker player. Does this suggest that he may not be that great at sports or political predictions also? If you say yes, does this mean you shouldn't listen to his advice about prediction?

Not be turned in: (you don't need to write up, but think about if you have time, and we may discuss in class)

9. Do you think the Pareto Principle of Prediction is valid?
10. The term *Dunning-Kruger effect* describes when people greatly overestimate their skills/abilities in something (e.g., poker or math—"I don't need to study. I understood everything in class.") *because* they don't really understand it. Do you have any ideas for identifying and combating such tendencies either in yourself or someone you are teaching?