

Answers to reading check #4

True or false: the coronavirus was less a failure of a prediction and more a failure to act upon expert guidance. **True. There were actually lots of signs that a pandemic like that was possible, perhaps even overdue, and during the early stages experts gave predictions and advice that weren't followed.**

Suppose a political poll says that 71.4% of voters will vote for candidate A, and 28.6% of voters will vote for candidate B. The margin of error on these polls is $\pm 4\%$. How sure should we be that candidate A will win? **We should have near 100% certainty that A will win.**

Suppose a political forecast gives candidate A a 71.4% chance of winning, and candidate B a 28.6% chance of winning. How sure should we be that candidate A will win? **We should be more confident that A will win than B will win, but either one is still very possible.**

What was the most important factor about Silver's FiveThirtyEight model that gave Donald Trump a much higher chance of winning in 2016 than nearly any other model of the election? **It did not assume that the swing states were independent, since they were so similar demographically.**

What are the two types of cognition Daniel Kahneman describes in his 2011 book?

Cognition System 1: **"Thinking fast"**

Cognition System 2: **"Thinking slow"**

We get into trouble when we try to apply system 1 to complicated problems with which we have little to no experience.

The collective judgment of a group of people (or "the wisdom of crowds") according to James Surowiecki, thrives when which of the following features are present in the situation? (Check **all** that apply.)

- Strong opinions.** People in the group are passionate about their point of view.
- Diversity.** People in the group have a variety of backgrounds, experiences, and skill sets.
- Independence.** People in the group are able to share ideas and dissent openly, without fear of reprisal.
- High stakes.** The decision that the group is going to reach has great consequences for the individuals in the group.