

# COMMON SENSE

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What about research?

# Common Sense Ideas

Examine the following 10 statements.

- Which do you think are true, and which are false?
- How do you think your opinion compares with others in the class?

1. Violent crime is on the rise in Canada
2. In terms of close personal relationships do opposites really work out
3. Primitive societies have little technology
4. Poverty is increasing in Canada
5. Capital punishment deters murderers
6. Children of divorced parents tend to have more problems in school
7. Homeless people want to be on the street
8. Some people dream and some do not
9. Young people from working class backgrounds are more likely to commit crimes than those from middle class backgrounds
10. Men have always been dominant over women

# The Truth about Common Sense

- All the statements are false
- Social scientists will tell you that most of what you hear about human behavior is just not true
- Research in social science has proven all the above “common sense” statements are untrue
- Our own personal experiences do not necessarily make things true either, at least not on a universal scale or any other scale other than an isolated incident or occurrence
- There are a lot of myths about humans and human nature – this course will examine and challenge many of these issues