

Simranjot Phagura
Live Oak High School
10th Grade
Second Place

Socrates's quote about how knowledge is the only good and ignorance is only evil, is quite powerful indeed, but I disagree to a certain extent. To say knowledge is the only good is like saying an apple is the only fruit in the world, it isn't exactly true. There are many good things in the world, not just knowledge. Although I agree ignorance is evil, it isn't the only evil.

Knowledge indeed is power, and definitely a good, but when one thinks about what "good" is, many things come to mind. Is bravery not a good aspect in life? Or how about courage? When you really generalize "good" many possibilities emerge. One does not need to be knowledgeable to have good morals. For example, take a child and give it a puppy, most likely the child will love the pet and take care of it. The child probably has little knowledge about life, but it seems to be good to the pet.

The same goes for the concept that ignorance is the only evil. This isn't necessarily true. A thief can be the smartest person in the world, yet he/she would still commit crimes. Even if that criminal knows its wrong. One can be knowledgeable yet live an evil life. Many things in life give evil to the world. Greed, lust, jealousy, and anger can all be emitted from a knowledgeable person, so to say evil is only ignorance won't exactly stand true.

In conclusion, Socrates has a very powerful quote but it can be wrong. One cannot narrow down the whole spectrum of good and evil to just two things, it is an idea that has to remain general and open.