Knowledge Claims and tests of Knowledge Claims

**Types of Knowledge claims:**

1. **Rational Claim, based on definitions, logic or accepted principles. Ex: right angles have a measure of 90 degrees, or if we are given , then we can deduce that x(x+1) must also be true. Rational Claims generally involve second hand information (things we learn from others). If we accept that all men are mortal, and that Socrates was a man, then we can conclude that Socrates is mortal. The two premises were accepted from second hand information, and the conclusion reached by learned principles of logic**
2. **Observational Claim, things we see, hear and so forth**
3. **Claims based on observations. Scientific Method and Laws are claims based on observation through experimentation. Used to explain past events and predict future events.**
4. **Normative Claims, or value judgments. Not verifiable as true or false.**
5. **Metaphysical Claims, statements about God, the nature of ultimate reality. These should be recognized as statements of faith.**

**Tests of Knowledge Claims:**

1. **Coherence test – does it correspond with what you already accept as true.**
2. **Correspondence test – go check yourself. Scientific Method is an example.**
3. **Pragmatic test - doesn’t really matter if it is true or not, it works for us so we accept it as true.**