

Subject: Re: District Council Review

Date: Mon, 17 Sep 2001 21:29:51 -0700

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Yes,,Dave. I agree, but the sad part is that this is very like a circular riddle. We think we're more competent then they are, but isn't it possible (they could argue) that it's really just that we are competent enough to recognize how competent they are and we are not? (Getting dizzy yet?)

Regards,
Bill

Dave Sadler wrote:

Many people ask me why District Council makes such lousy decisions. The following article is the closest I've come to discovering the answer.

Incompetents don't know they are incompetent

A psychologist who has studied incompetent people says they are the least likely to realise how useless they are.

He reckons the skills needed for competence are the same ones needed to recognise it.

The findings may explain why people with a poor sense of humour insist on telling bad jokes.

Dr David Dunning studied dozens of poor students, many of them confident in their abilities, before reaching his conclusions.

Dunning's assistant, graduate student Justin Kruger, says: "Not only do incompetents reach erroneous conclusions and make unfortunate choices but their incompetence robs them of the ability to realise it."

The study is published in the [Journal of Personality and Social Psychology](#).