**Introduction to Psychology**

**Summer Semester 2011**

Read the article and answer the following questions. The answers to the questions are right before your eyes in the article. However, this article is difficult reading. The author rambles a bit and approaches the subject in a quasi-intellectual way. You will have to read it and to think about what it says to properly recognize the answers. Also, answers to two or more questions may be very much the same. Type your answers on this or a separate page.

***Why Believe That for Which There Is No Good Evidence?***

Robyn M. Dawes

False Memory Syndrome Foundation (FMSFonline.org)

To find the article, go to: <http://www.fmsfonline.org/dawes.html>

1. Why do people believe things for which there is little or no evidence (two reasons)? (Hint: Why does the author believe in global warming?)

2. Since we know that authority figures are not always reliable, what would happen if we rejected or questioned all authority figures? (What do Stich and Nisbett have to say?)

3. According to Dawes, what are the bases for what we believe most of the time? Are these bases rational? Are they scientific?

**He goes on to say that many people believe in repression of memories of widespread child abuse and satanic cults and asks why. He then offers some explanations in the form of assumptions that people make that may be false.**

4. Dawes gives three reasons why it is difficult to understand or believe that evidence for repressed child abuse and widespread satanic cults is in error. What are they?

5. What is difficult for people about being asked to question their own memories?

6. Is confidence in what you believe a good clue to the accuracy or validity of the belief?

7. Does additional knowledge always improve the accuracy of what you “know”?

8. These beliefs occur in spite of what?

9. What authorities are the people who believe in repressed memories of abuse influenced by?

10. Why are therapists now less likely than therapists who practiced in earlier years to inoculate their patients against irrational beliefs?

11. What has changed in terms of the training of clinical psychologists; why have the therapists not been inoculated?