

IS 628: Computer-based Information Systems  
Reading Preparation Assignment  
Chapter 1 Supplemental Reading

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Be prepared for class discussion based on the following questions based on the reading linked below:

1. Compare and contrast *causation* vs. *correlation*. How can we recognize one from the other? Why is it significant for us to understand this (or even discuss it) in a class on information systems?
2. What is Moore's definition of *fact*? How does this compare to some other (more common?) definitions you might think of?
3. What are *misinformation* and *disinformation* and how can we tell the difference between them?
4. What is the conflict between science and prediction?
5. How is *propaganda* defined by Moore? How does this compare to the original definition or the one advanced by Edward Bernays?
6. What are science's weaknesses? What are the responses to those weaknesses?
7. What is the *precautionary approach*? How may we use the precautionary approach becoming a skeptical consumer of information?
8. Why should we become skeptical consumers of information?

### First Principles

From Chapter 1, "First Principles," of *Confessions of a Greenpeace Dropout: The Making of a Sensible Environmentalist*, by Patrick A. Moore. Ph.D.; Beatty Street Publishing: Vancouver, BC, Canada; revised edition, 2013.