"One of the most important books I've ever read—an indispensable guide to thinking clearly about the world." —Bill Gates

*New York Times* Bestseller

# FACT FUL NESS

Ten Reasons We're Wrong About the World—and Why Things Are Better Than You Think

**Hans Rosling** with Ola Rosling and Anna Rosling Rönnlund

This book was recommended by Mark Etreim of Valley View Rotary. After reading it, I mentioned it to Dean Dickinson who suggested it should become a program for our club.

The author Hans Rosling was a Professor of International Health who had a unique way of understanding factual data illustrating global trends about poverty, progress and population.

The book challenges what I thought I knew about the world. His research shows that the developed-educated world systematically gets the answers wrong about current conditions. So wrong that a chimpanzee choosing random answers would do better.

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Ten Reasons We're Wrong About the World—and Why Things Are Better Than You Think

## Hans Rosling
with Ola Rosling and Anna Rosling Rönnlund

**At our core:** Rotarians are "possibilists" believing that we have the possibility to create a better world through collective inspired action through service.

How consistent are our own beliefs in making a difference in the world with our thinking about the current state of the world, our future and how much do we rely upon facts vs. gut instincts?

Let's start with a quiz about how much we know about our world today

# 1. In all low-income countries across the world today, how many girls finish primary school?

A: 20 percent

B: 40 percent

C: 60 percent

Correct Answer: C

# 2. Where does the majority of the world population live?

A: Low-income countries
B: Middle-income countries
C: High-income countries

Correct Answer: B

# 3. In the last 20 years, the proportion of the world population living in extreme poverty has . . .

**A: almost doubled**

**B: remained more or less the same**

**C: almost halved**

**Correct Answer: C**

# 4. What is the life expectancy of the world today?

A: 50 years

B: 60 years

C: 70 years

Correct Answer: C

**5. There are 2 billion children in the world today, aged 0 to 15 years old. How many children will there be in the year 2100, according to the United Nations?**

A: 4 billion

B: 3 billion

C: 2 billion

Correct Answer: C

**6. The UN Predicts that by 2100 the world population will have increased by another 4 billion people What is the reason?**

**A: There will be more children (age beow 15)**
**B: There will be more adults (age a15 to 74)**
**C: There will be more very old people (age 75 and older)**

**Correct Answer: C**

**7. How did the number of deaths per year from natural disasters change over the last hundred years?**

**A: More than doubled**
**B: Remained about the same**
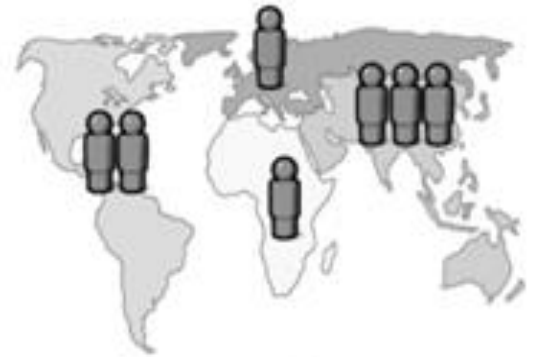**C:Decreased to less than half**

**Correct Answer: C**

**8. There are roughly 7 billion people in the world today. Which map shows best where they live? (Each figure represents 1 billion people.)**



A

B

C

**Correct Answer: A**

**9. How many of the world's 1 year old children today have been vaccinated against some disease?**

A: 20 percent
B: 50 percent
C:80 percent

Correct Answer: C

**10.Worldwide, 30 year old men have spent 10 years in school, on average. How many years have women of the same age spent in school?**

A: 9 years
B: 6 years
C: 3 years

**11. In 1996, tigers, giant pandas, and black rhinos were all listed as endangered. How many of these three species are more critically endangered today?**

A: Two of them
B: One of them
C: None of them

Correct Answer: C

# 12. How many people in the world have some access to electricity?

A: 20 percent
B: 50 percent
C: 80 percent

**Correct Answer: C**

**13. Global climate experts believe that, over the next 100 years, the average temperature will…**

**A: Get warmer**
**B: Remain the same**
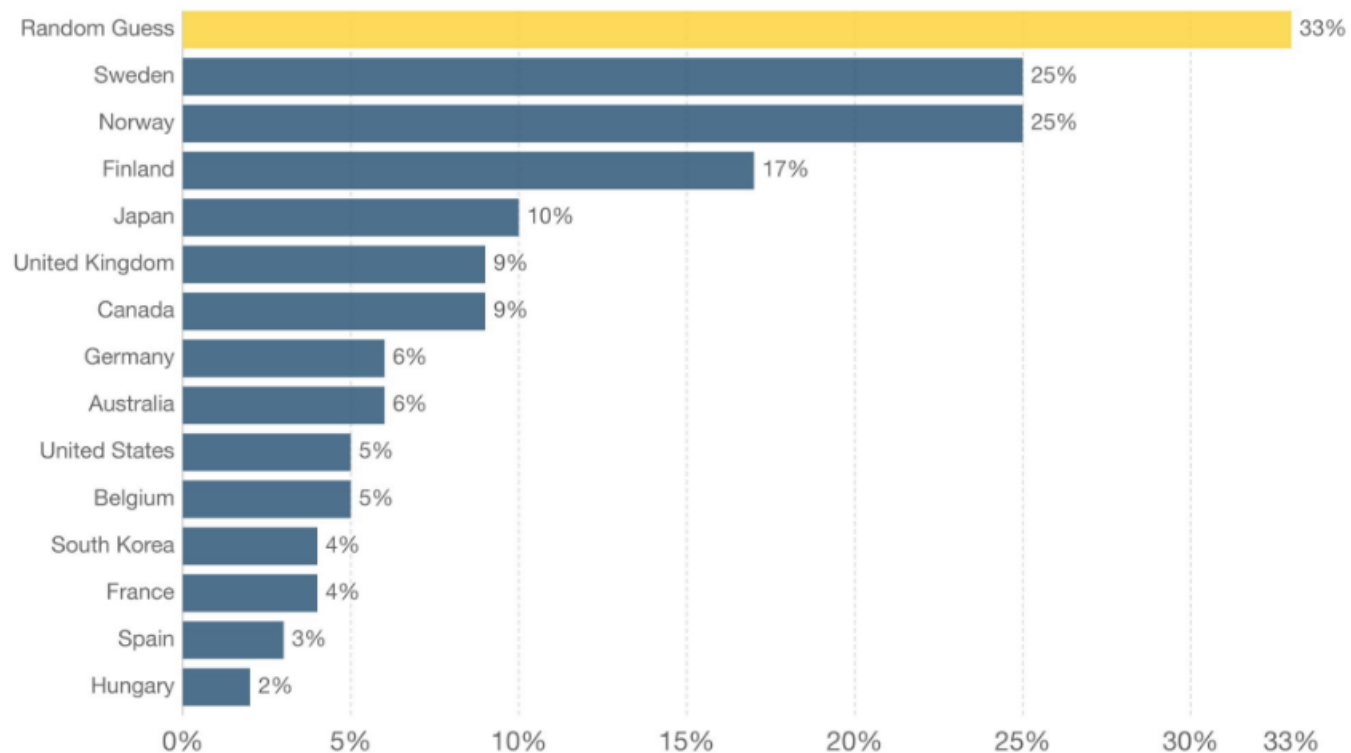**C: Get colder**

**Correct Answer: A**

# How did you do?

- Did you feel like you were just guessing?
- If you got a lot wrong, you're in good company
- There are no trick questions, just simple verifiable facts
- Question 3 for example: In last 20 years, the proportion of the World's population in extreme poverty has almost halved. On average only 7 percent in the most educated countries get it right.
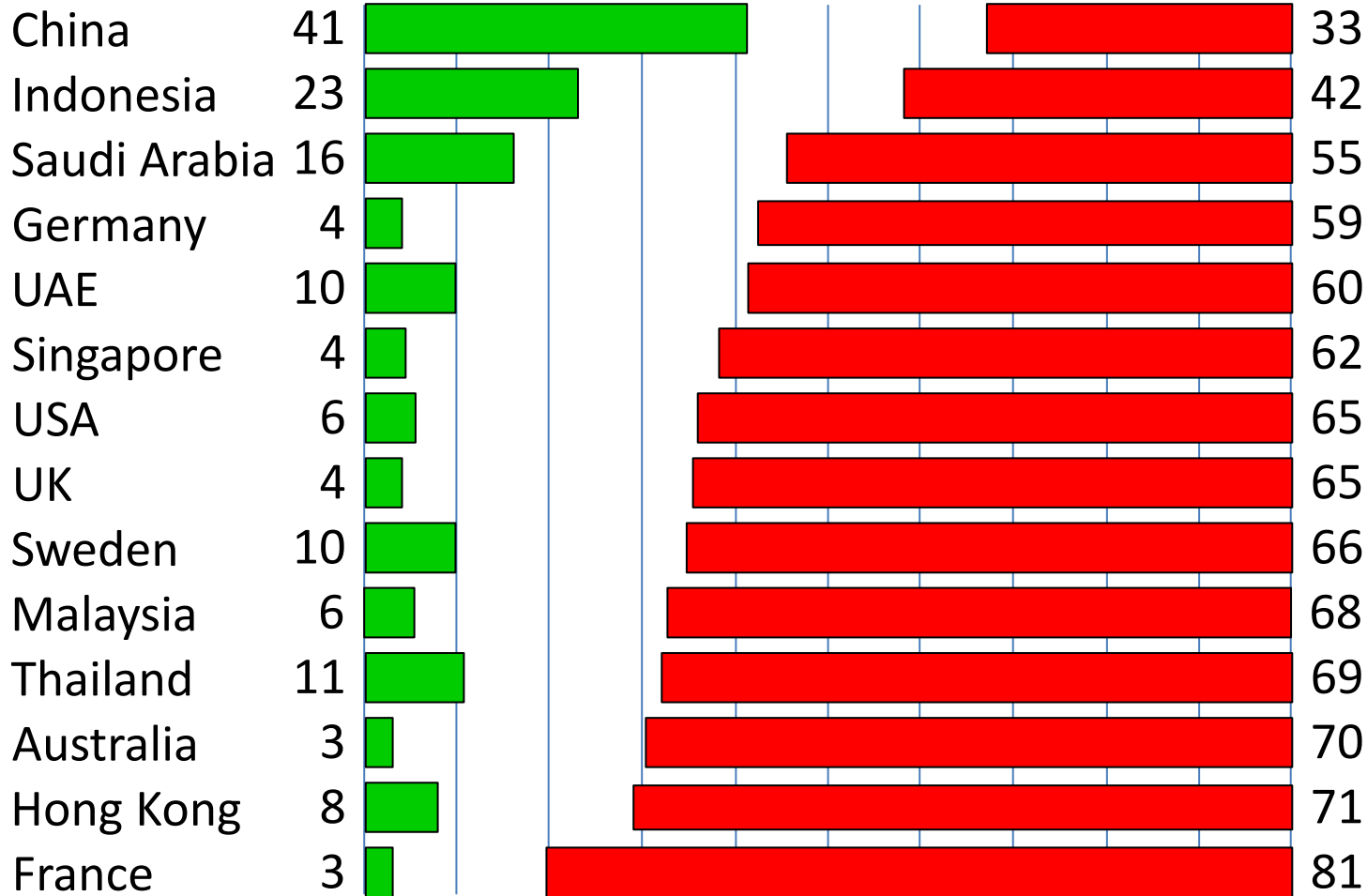- People guess worse than a random choice (1 out of 3)

# Share of public who knew global extreme poverty was falling

12,000 people in 14 countries were asked: "In the last 20 years, the proportion of the world population living in extreme poverty has...?" A: almost doubled B: stayed the same, or C: almost halved. Answer C is correct. Results show the share of respondents who answered correctly.

| Country | Percentage |
|---|---|
| Random Guess | 33% |
| Sweden | 25% |
| Norway | 25% |
| Finland | 17% |
| Japan | 10% |
| United Kingdom | 9% |
| Canada | 9% |
| Germany | 6% |
| Australia | 6% |
| United States | 5% |
| Belgium | 5% |
| South Korea | 4% |
| France | 4% |
| Spain | 3% |
| Hungary | 2% |

0%    5%    10%    15%    20%    25%    30%    33%

**World is getting better** | **World is getting worse**

| Country | Better | Worse |
|---|---|---|
| China | 41 | 33 |
| Indonesia | 23 | 42 |
| Saudi Arabia | 16 | 55 |
| Germany | 4 | 59 |
| UAE | 10 | 60 |
| Singapore | 4 | 62 |
| USA | 6 | 65 |
| UK | 4 | 65 |
| Sweden | 10 | 66 |
| Malaysia | 6 | 68 |
| Thailand | 11 | 69 |
| Australia | 3 | 70 |
| Hong Kong | 8 | 71 |
| France | 3 | 81 |

YouGov

# EXTREME POVERTY RATE FROM 1800 TO TODAY



1800
**85%**

1966
**50%**

2017
**9%**

Share of humanity
living on Level 1
on less than $2/day.

Dollars adjusted for
inflation and price differences.

Source: Gapminder[9] based on Bourguignon and Morrisson, World Bank[5] & OurWorldInData[1]
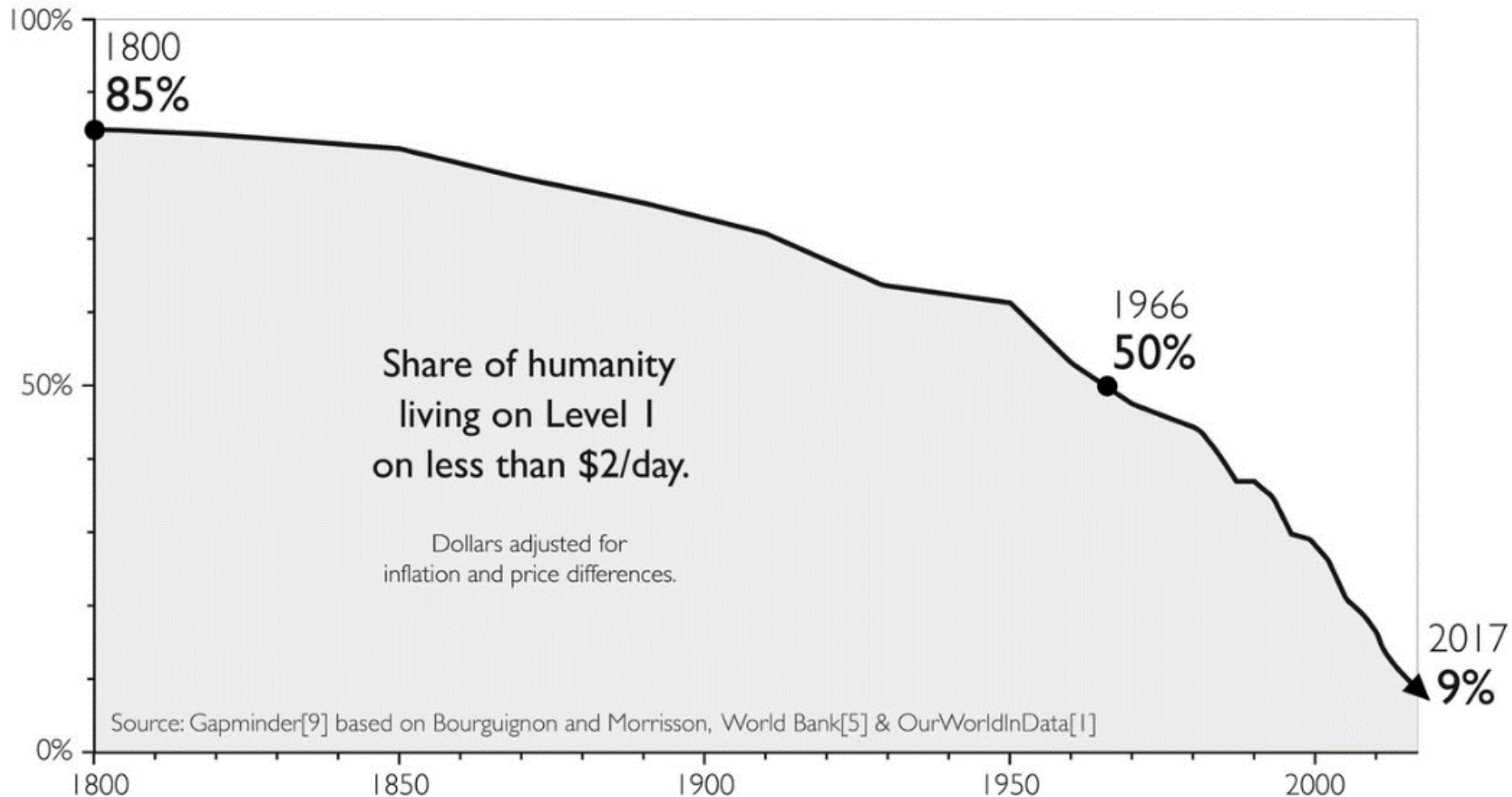
4 minute video
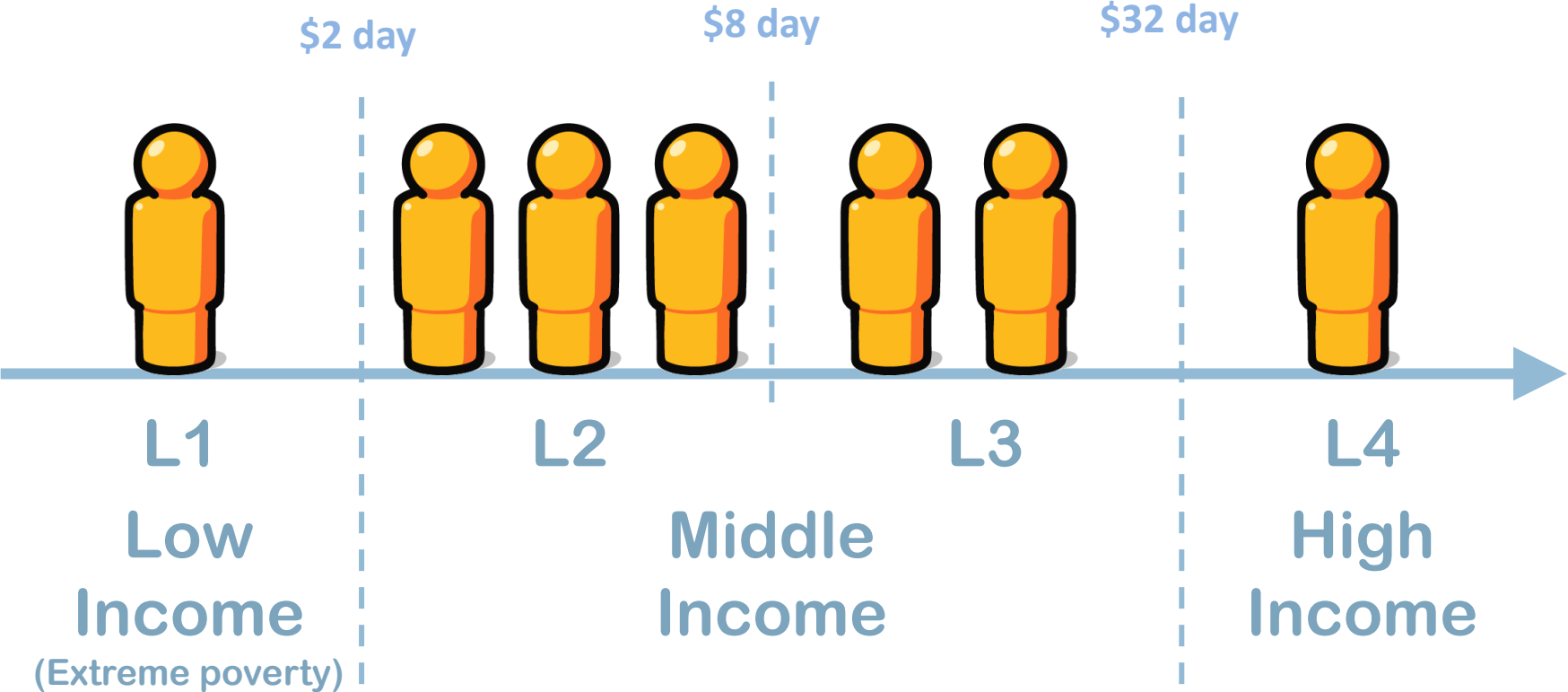
# The dramatic attention filter

From all facts in the world → our attention filter → selects the most dramatic.
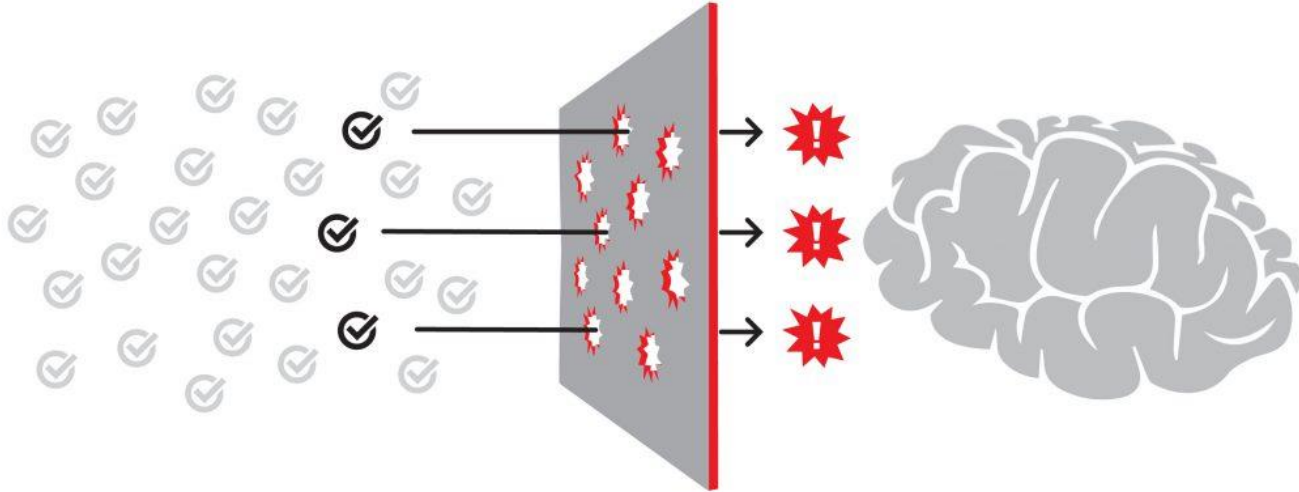


# makes the world look
# more dramatic than it is

# 10 DRAMATIC INSTINCTS

GAP

NEGATIVITY

STRAIGHT

SIZE

FEAR

GENERALIZATION

DESTINY

SINGLE

BLAME

URGENCY

# For More Information about understanding the world:

- Gapminder.org  for many files and information about the fact based research inspired by Hans Rosling

- Factfulness the book by Hans Rosling can be accessed at area Libraries or booksellers on-line

- Ted Talks or You Tube: Hans Rosling has many presentations

- E-mail me: omalley.stv@gmail.org to borrow a copy of the book