

Plantinga's Reformed Epistemology: A Flowchart
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What makes a system of beliefs—a noetic structure—*rational* (i.e., under what conditions does one exercise one's epistemic powers *properly*)? (Note that this is a normative question, not a factual question.)

1. Every belief in the noetic structure is either properly basic or derived from a properly basic belief. **Weak Foundationalism.**
What makes a belief properly basic?

a. It is either self-evident or evident to the senses. **Ancient/Medieval Foundationalism.**

b. It is either self-evident or incorrigible. **Modern Foundationalism.**

c. It is either self-evident, evident to the senses, or incorrigible. **Classical Foundationalism** (the disjunction of Ancient/Medieval Foundationalism and Modern Foundationalism).

d. It is ????. **Reformed Epistemology.**

2. At least one belief in the noetic structure is neither properly basic nor derived from a properly basic belief. Examples: **Incoherence, Reliabilism.**

Note: **Strong Foundationalism** is the conjunction of **Weak Foundationalism** and one of its species (e.g., **Modern Foundationalism**). Thus, **Reformed Epistemology** is an instance of **Strong Foundationalism**.