

In 2021–22, CQ asks you: What is progress?

Where does the term “paradigm shift” come from? Can protest lead to change? What does it really mean to forgive? How did COVID-19 vaccine development depend on basic science research? How does the trajectory of humankind look on a graph? How many rungs on the ladder to heaven?

The sources below consider progress from creative, scientific, and humanistic perspectives.

#1 John Naughton, “[Thomas Kuhn: The man who changed the way the world looked at science](#)” (2012)

“He singlehandedly changed the way we think about mankind's most organised attempt to understand the world.”

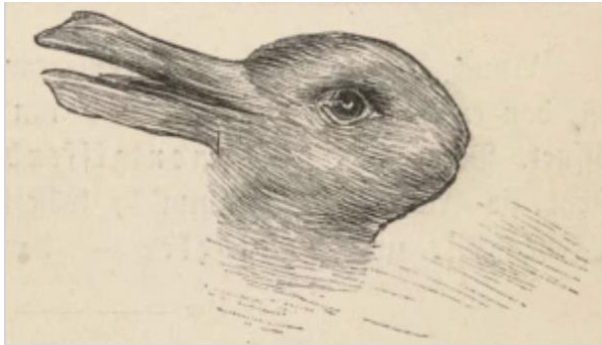


Image: <https://www.nature.com/articles/484164a>

#2 Ryan Coogler, [*Black Panther*](#) (2018)

“What happens now determines what happens to the rest of the world.”



Image: <https://www.theatlantic.com/entertainment/archive/2018/02/the-game-changing-success-of-black-panther/553763/>

#3 Anonymous, [*Celadon Box*](#) (no date)

“Over 500 years ago in Japan, a repair technique was developed that celebrated the beauty of imperfection.”



Image: <https://art.thewalters.org/detail/4176/celadon-box/>

#4 Senator Barbara Mikulski, “[Helping You To Be You](#)” (2021)

“Explain the mission. Where are we? How can I help you be you?”



Image: <https://www.nbcnews.com/id/wbna4839003>

#5 Jeff Orlowski, [The Social Dilemma](#) (2021)

“Social media isn’t a tool waiting to be used. It has its own goals.”



Image: <https://lynxotic.com/the-social-dilemma-forget-the-critics-and-watch-this-important-documentary-now-netflix/>

#6 AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power, “[AIDS Protests at the NIH](#)” (1990)

“One month after this protest, Dr. Anthony Fauci and the National Institutes for Health began directly including people with AIDS in determining policy on the drug trials.”



Image: <https://www.nlm.nih.gov/exhibition/survivingandthriving/exhibition-fight-back-fight-aids.html>

#7 Philip Yeagle, “[The potent power of basic research](#)” (2021)

“Why should we fund scientists to perform experiments...that at the time may seem to lack relevance to immediate societal issues?”



Image: <https://www.advancedsciencenews.com/pioneers-in-science-katalin-kariko/>

#8 Myisha Cherry, “[What Does it Mean to Ask Blacks to Forgive and How Should They Respond?](#)” (2016)

“To forgive...is to offer an appropriate, proportionate, and reasonable response to injustice.”



#9 Toni Morrison, [Wellesley Commencement Address](#) (2004)

“The process of becoming an adult is not inevitable.”



Image: <https://www.timesofisrael.com/nobel-laureate-toni-morrison-dead-at-88/>

#10 Atul Gawande & PBS *Frontline*, “[Being Mortal](#)” (2015)

“What did we forego by consistently pursuing treatment...which made her sicker and sicker?”



Image: <https://dianerehm.org/shows/2014-10-06/atul-gawande-being-mortal-medicine-and-what-matters-end>

#11 Anonymous, [The Ladder of Divine Ascent](#) at St. Catherine's Monastery, Sinai, Egypt (12th century)



Image: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ladder_of_Divine_Ascent_\(icon\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ladder_of_Divine_Ascent_(icon))

#12 Steven Pinker, “[Talks at Google: Enlightenment Now](#)” (2019)

“Intellectuals hate progress.”

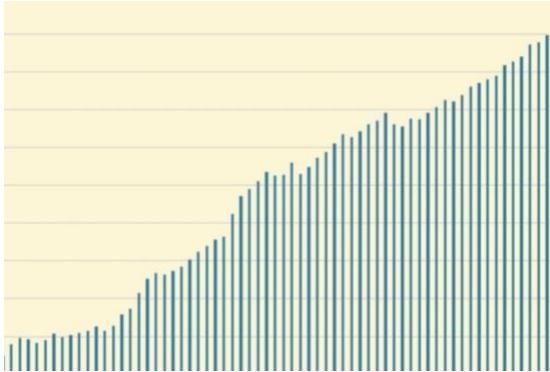


Image:

<https://forum.effectivealtruism.org/posts/gQvaA9EbvzmzQATht3/book-review-enlightenment-now-by-steven-pinker>

#13 Miranda July, “[The Swim Team](#)” (2007)

“But instead of dying, I said: I can teach you how to swim. And we don’t need a pool.”



Image: <http://www.dailypublic.com/articles/01202015/miranda-july-friends-become-enemies-enemies-become-friends>

#14 [The Johns Hopkins Center for Psychedelic and Consciousness Research](#)

“Psychedelics have real potential as medicine.”



Image: <https://www.motherjones.com/2020-elections/2020/11/oregon-legalize-magic-mushrooms-psilocybin-measure-109/>

#15 Anthony Abraham Jack, “[What does it mean to be a poor student on a rich college campus?](#)” (2019)

“Being accessible and being inclusive are two different things.”



Image: <https://www.marketwatch.com/story/what-does-it-mean-to-be-a-poor-student-on-a-rich-college-campus-2019-03-13>