

# Relationship between AI/LLMs and prolepsis

Post by “Eikadistes” of September 5, 2025 at 9:28 AM

At this point, I say **no**, *it does not have something to teach us about preconceptions*. I think it's like trying to learn about the physics of stars by observing Van Gogh's painting *Starry Night*. No matter how advanced or well-defined our models, they are still (for now) just models and analogies.

Maybe it *does*, insofar as it can teach us what a preconception *is not*.

As Diogēnēs describes of a *preconception*, it is a "*memory of the appearances from abroad*", so being able to experience/process sensation, as I read it, is a necessary precursor to a preconception.

In an Epicurean sense, I don't think it's accurate to say that LLM's can have "preconceptions" because they are prone to error. Rather, it looks to me like they are being programmed with "opinions", *some of which are true ... but they are not, themselves, standards of truth*. They lack the standard of sensation, so they're at the whim of their programmers' memories.

We'll need to get to the point where an android organically dreams of sheep.

If I were on Picard's Enterprise-D, I would, *personally*, trust Data, but not the ship's computer, even if 99% of their knowledge-base were shared. If I'm going to risk losing my arm, I'm not going to take advice from an armless thing. Give that thing an arm to lose, and then see how it thinks. Likewise, I'll trust Data's description of the texture of kitten fur before the computer's, or the flavor of Picard's tea (probably bitter Earl Grey), over anything else for which it lacks its own sensory organs.

## [Quote from Titus](#)

I just wanted to share my thoughts on a topic that has been on my mind for a long time.

Really cool thought, though! It's at least worth the thought experiment.