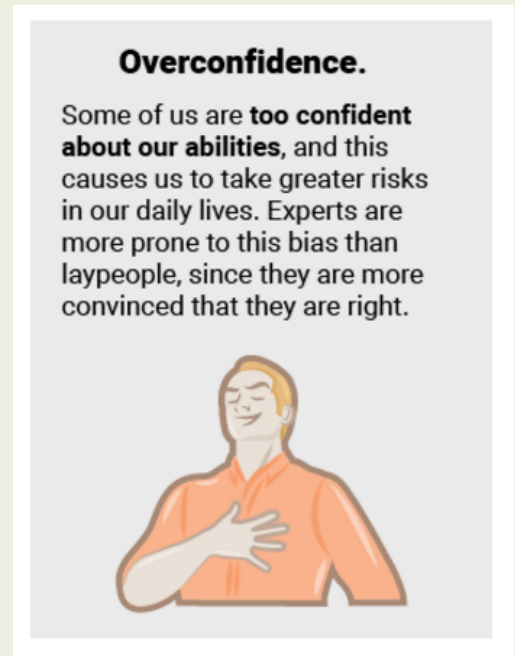


Cognitive Bias #4 — Overconfidence

Nobody asked but ...



Self-appointed experts, aka politicians, seem to be the worst. Here's an example:

Everybody I talk to, and I talk to a lot of people, say that there is climate change. So, I have educated myself about it. Many scientists have found some statistical proxy or computer model that replaces the work of getting a true average temperature for the whole planet, an average temperature that has been adjusted for all change over time and a pretense of knowing all future things. So, I think that the consensus must be what it is made out to be by a majority of scientists (including those in unrelated fields). This thing is decided by popular vote, isn't it?

— Kilgore Forelle