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# Five Steps to Becoming a Superforecaster

October 28, 2021

Dr Warren Hatch, CEO



# Five Steps to Becoming a Superforecaster



**Please Navigate to:**

delphineo.com  
access code: **ECR2V**  
fictitious email ok

**All set:**

Please wait for the next step

Please wait...



Delphineo.com  
ECR2V

Please enter an initial forecast for the following question(s).

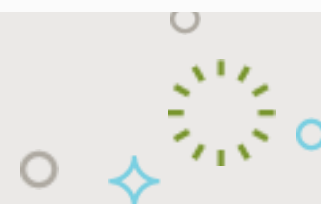
Before 1 January 2022, will the United States Olympic Committee announce that it is boycotting the 2022 Winter Olympics?

Probability (0-100)

Submit

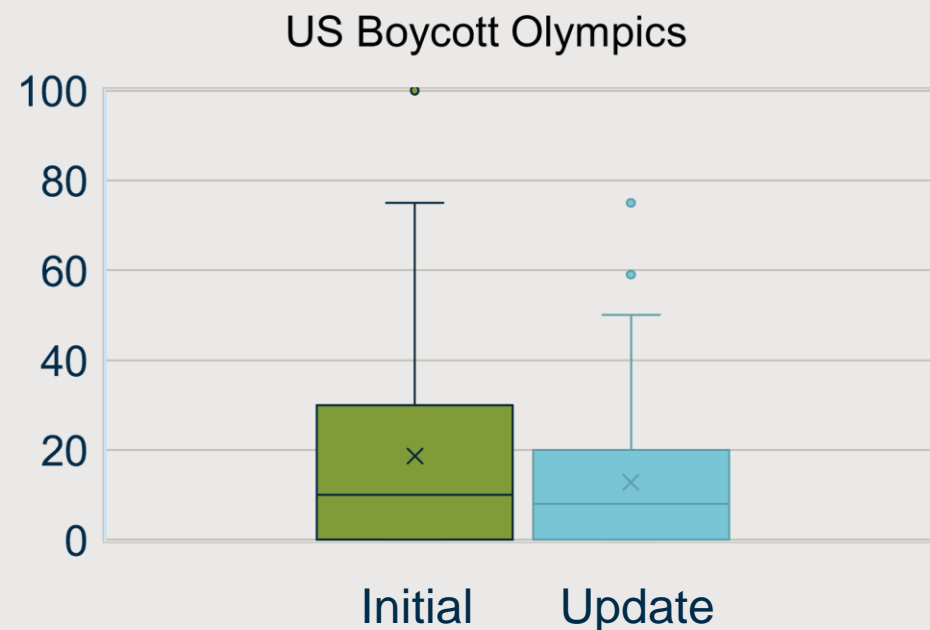
Please enter your initial estimate from 0% to 100%...

...and click "submit."





# Before 1 January 2022, will the United States Olympic Committee announce that it is boycotting the 2022 Winter Olympics?



The box and whisker chart shows the middle quartiles in the box, the outer quartiles as lines, circles (if any) as outliers, and the average marked by an x.





*No one ever made a  
decision because of a  
number.  
They need a story.*





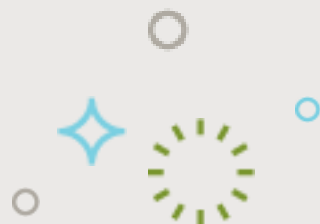
# Smart Talk Traps: All Story and No Numbers

**Arguably**, the cohesiveness of the multilateral system **could be weakened** by the creation of new parallel structures, but it is **also possible** that increased institutional density **could bolster** the resilience of the system.

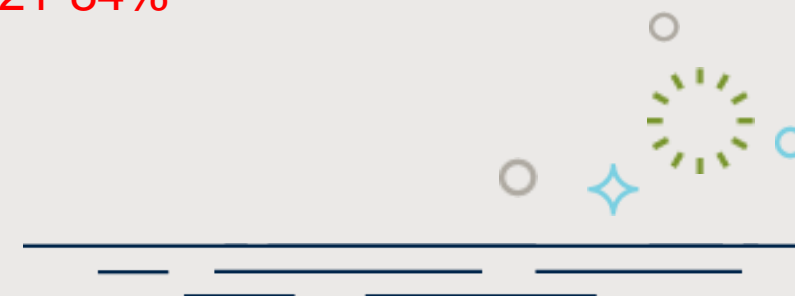
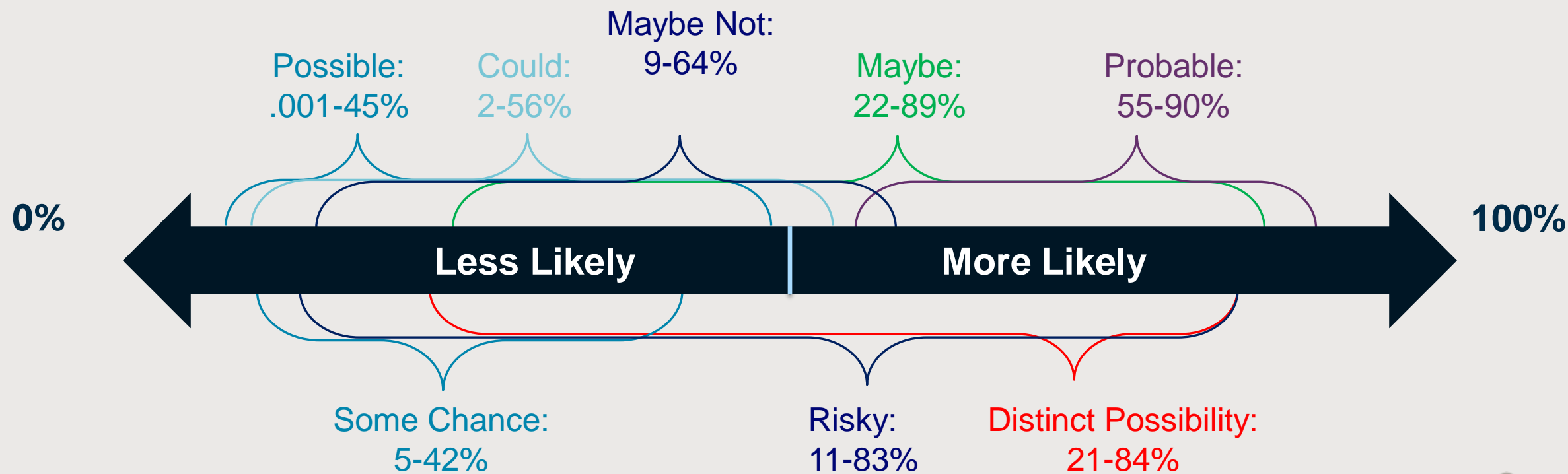
WORLD  
ECONOMIC  
FORUM

The Global Risks  
Report 2019  
14th Edition





# Vague-Verbiage Problem





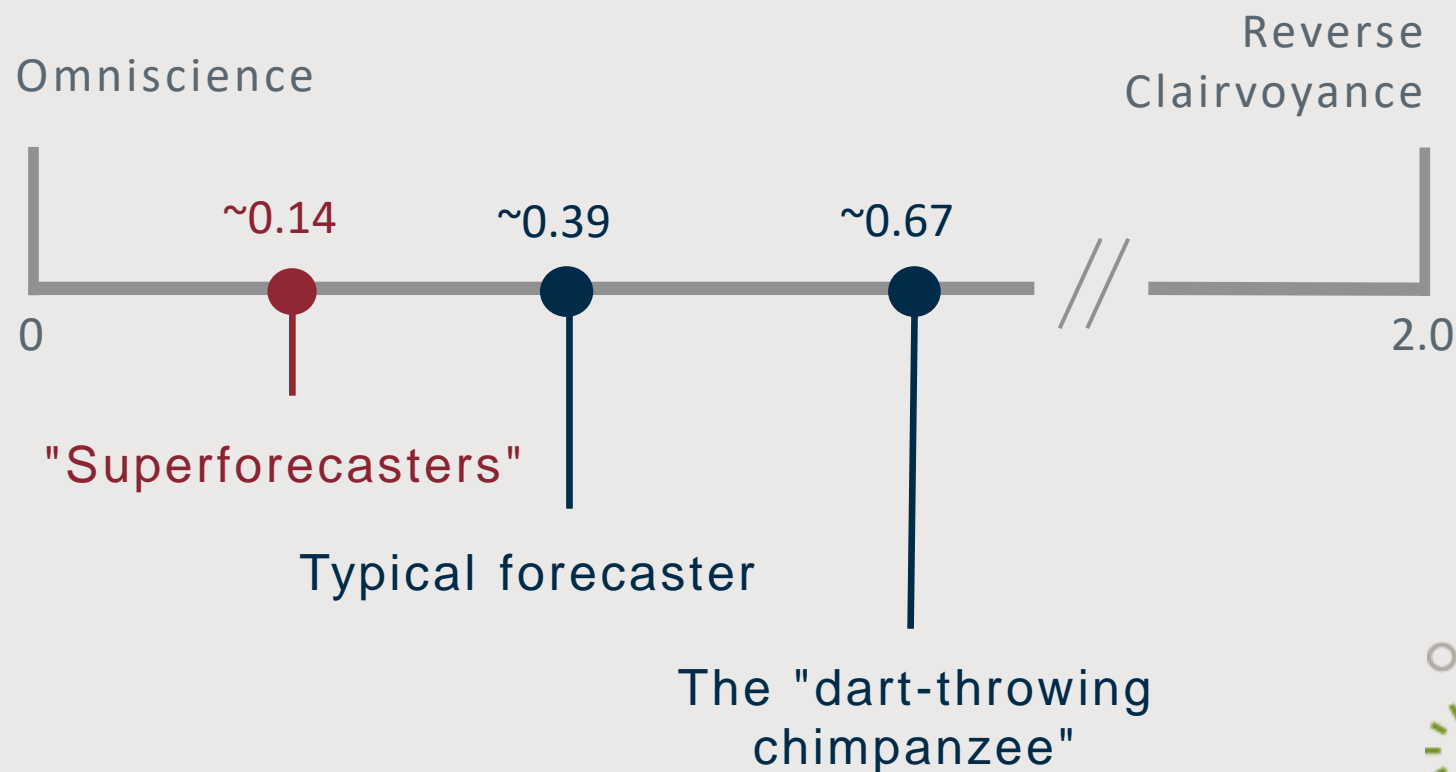
# Brier Scores measure accuracy of probability judgments across questions

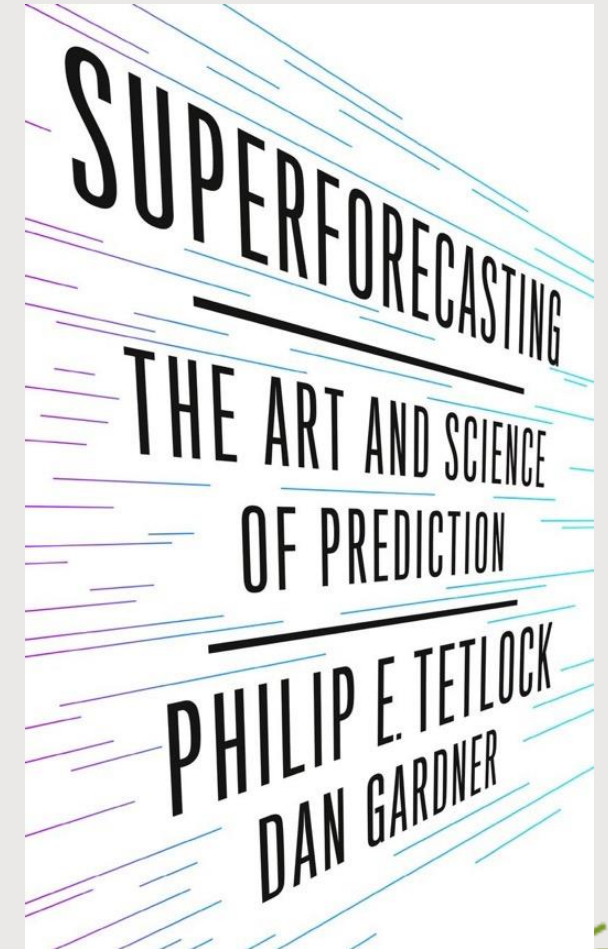
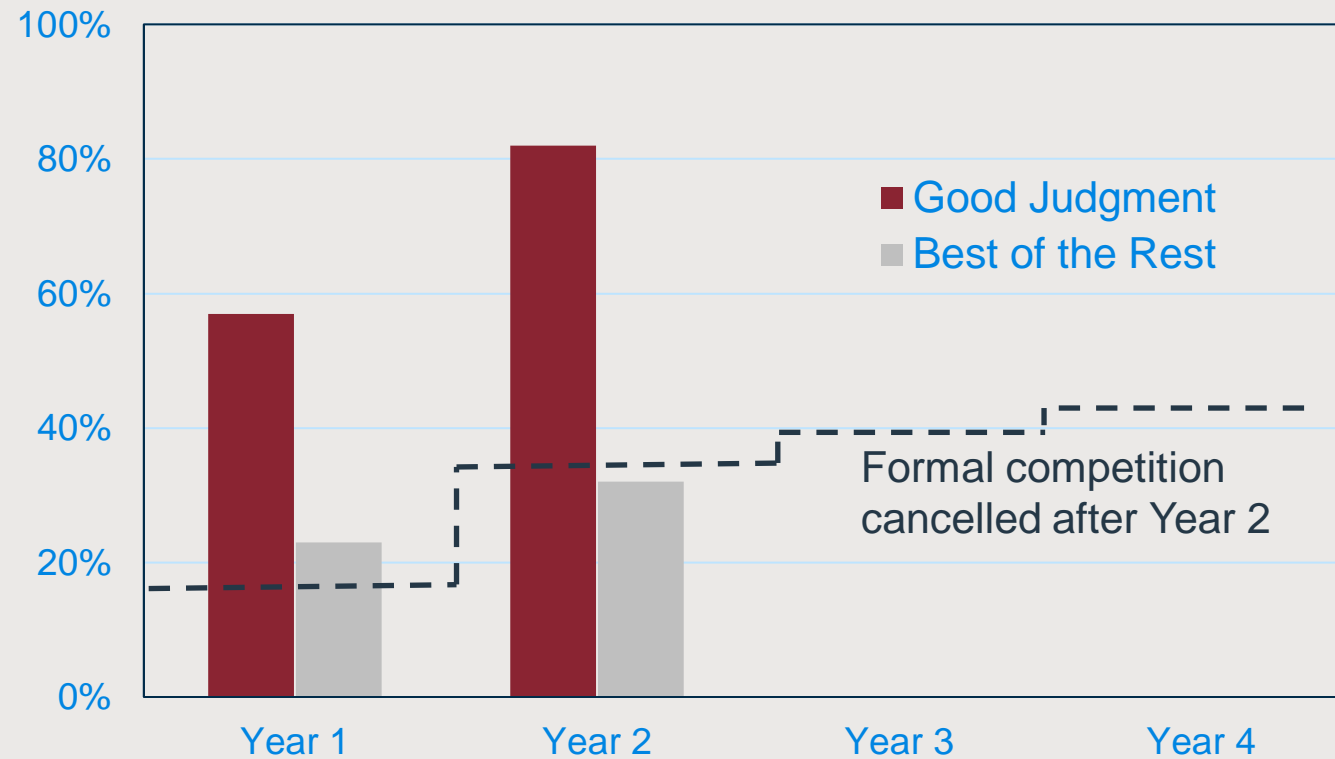
$\frac{1}{N} \sum_{t=1}^N (f_t - o_t)^2$ , where  $f_t$  is forecast probability and  $o_t$  is actual outcomes

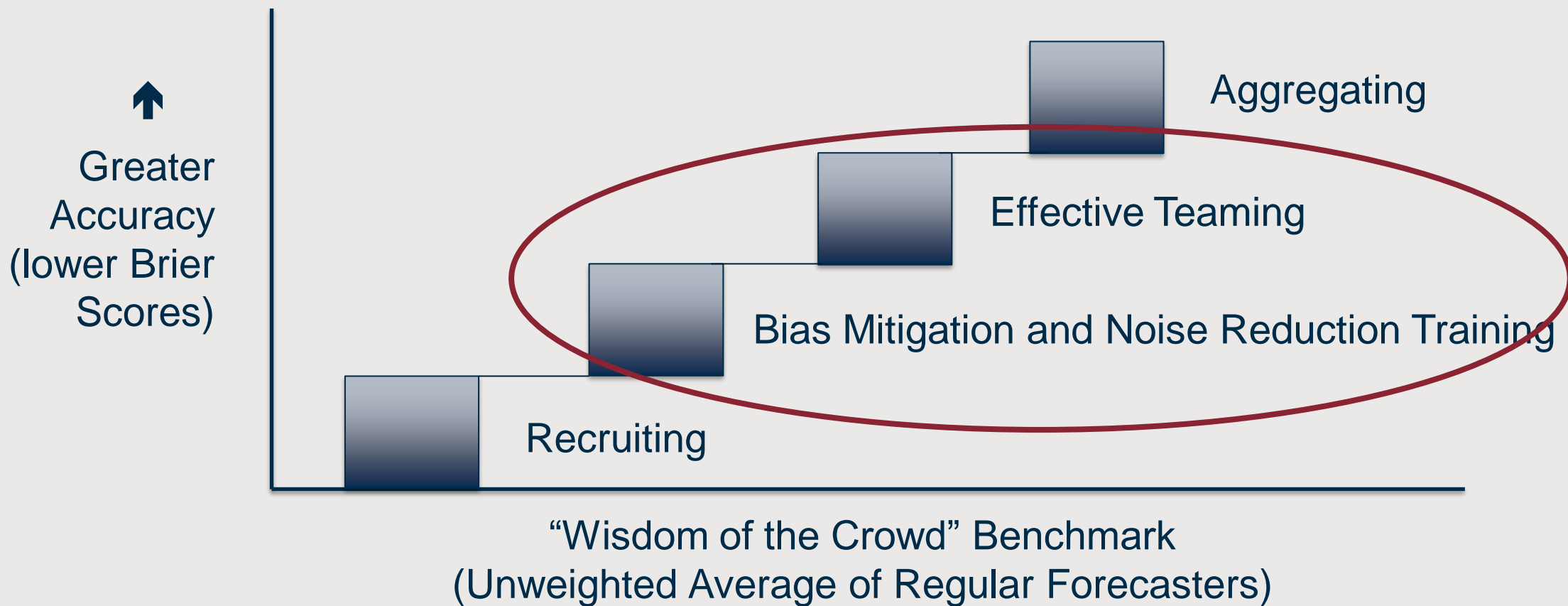
Brier Scores can be broken down:

Calibration:  $\sum_{k=1}^K n_k (\bar{o}_k - \bar{o})^2$

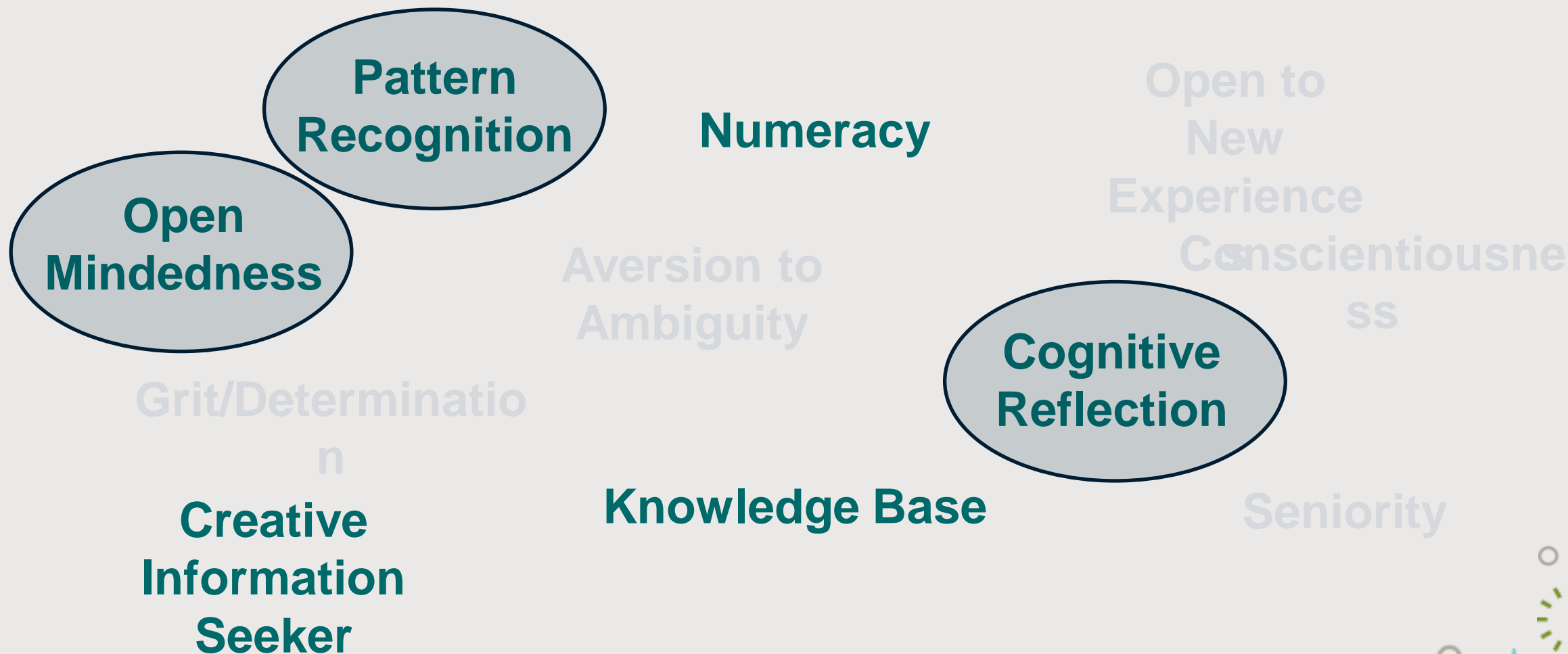
Resolution:  $\frac{1}{N} \sum_{k=1}^K n_k (f_k - \bar{o}_k)^2$

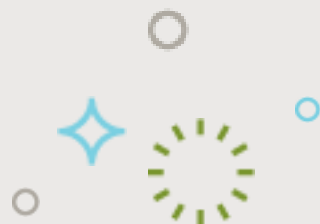




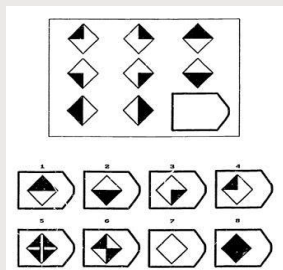


# Identifying Right People





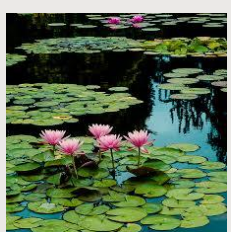
# Superforecasters?



Pattern Recognition



AOMT



Cognitive Reflection

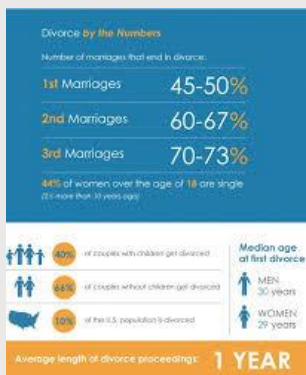


Without looking up the answer, what is the height of the Eiffel Tower in feet (from base to top of the antenna)?

Is it more/less than	Less	More
Group A: 10,000'	23	2
Group B: 100'	1	23
What is the height of the Eiffel Tower		
Group A (10,000')	2,871	
Group B (100')	629	
Mean A+B	1,750	1,063 feet
What is the group range		
Group A (10,000')	2,734	11,970
Group B (100')	688	2,900



# Superforecasting in 5 Steps



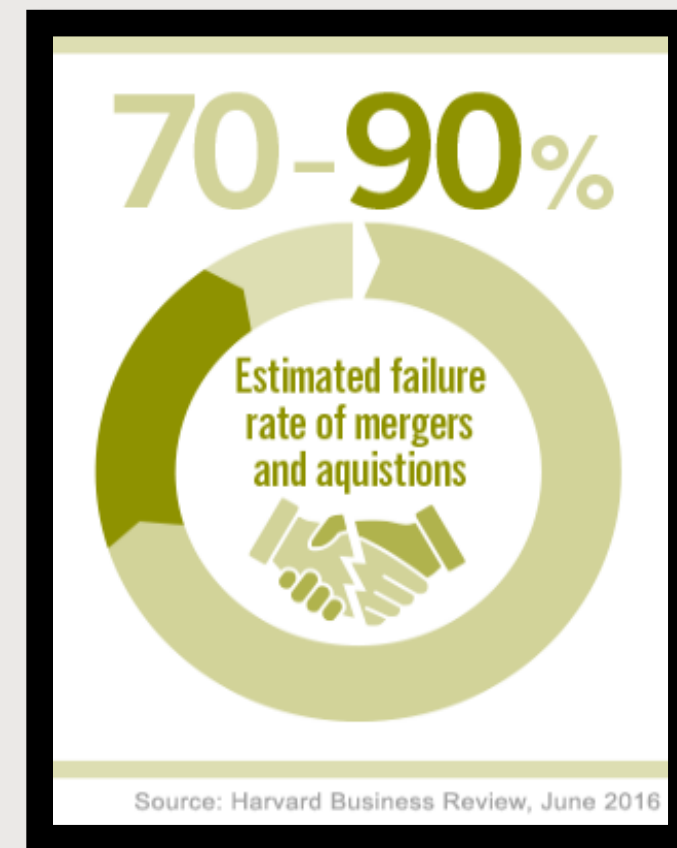
**1) Start with a Base Rate:** Find good comparison classes and then tackle the specifics of the question



## Inside View



## Outside View







# Outside Views

54  
Olympic  
Games  
since  
1896



US boycotted once  
(Moscow, 1980)





# Outside Views





# Outside Views



Base Rate:  
1/54 or 1/4?

World Cup?  
Commonwealth Games?  
Rhodesia, Israel, RSA?





# Combining the Inside and Outside Views



DEPARTMENT  
OF  
STATE



DEPARTMENT  
OF  
THE TREASURY



DEPARTMENT  
OF  
COMMERCE



DEPARTMENT  
OF  
HOMELAND SECURITY



OFFICE OF THE UNITED  
STATES TRADE  
REPRESENTATIVE



DEPARTMENT  
OF  
LABOR

**Xinjiang Supply Chain Business Advisory**

**Updated: July 13, 2021**

**Title: Risks and Considerations for Businesses and Individuals with Exposure to Entities Engaged in Forced Labor and other Human Rights Abuses linked to Xinjiang, China<sup>1</sup>**

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# Combining the Inside and Outside Views

The People's Republic of China (PRC) government continues to carry out **genocide** and **crimes against humanity** against Uyghurs.... The PRC's crimes against humanity include **imprisonment, torture, rape, forced sterilization, and persecution**, including through forced labor.... **Businesses, individuals, and other persons**...should be aware of the **significant reputational, economic, and legal risks** of involvement with entities or individuals in or linked to Xinjiang that engage in human rights abuses....

Title: Risks and Considerations for Businesses and Individuals with Exposure to Entities Engaged in Forced Labor and other Human Rights Abuses linked to Xinjiang, China!

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# Anchoring Mitigation Strategies: Combining the Inside v Outside Views

The core question: “Will things really be different this time?”

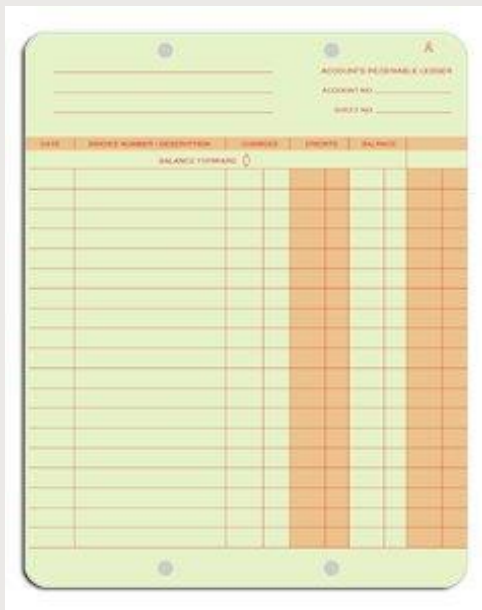
- The outside view addresses *how situations like this usually go*
- The inside view address *how this time might be different*

Also:

- An inside view specific narrative can make a scenario seem more likely
- An outside view also mitigates the related risk of conjunction fallacy, where the sum of the parts > the whole



# Superforecasting in 5 Steps



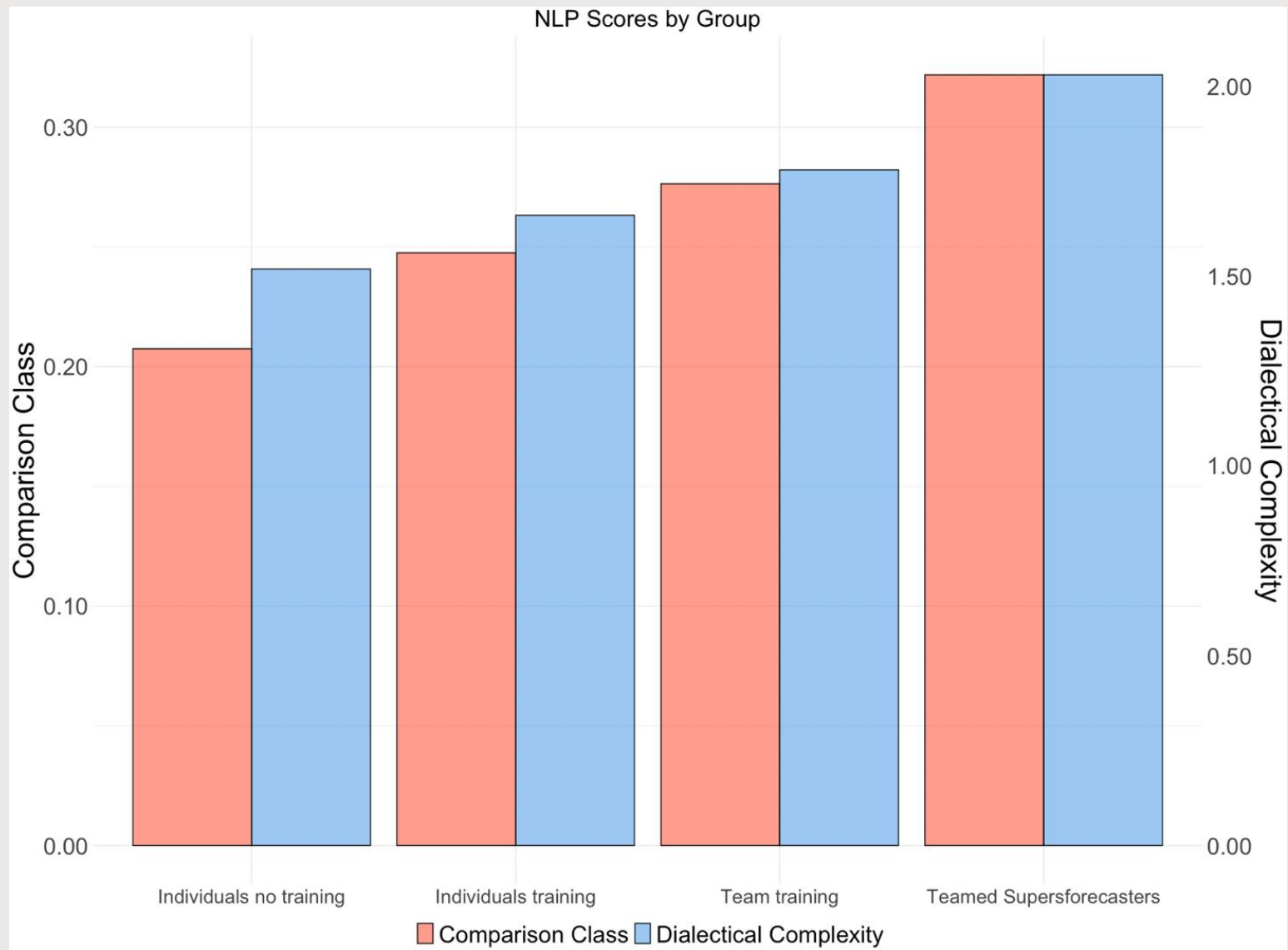
- 1) Start with a Base Rate:** Find good comparison classes and then tackle the specifics of the question
- 2) Record your Forecasts:** Write down your forecasts and reasoning to avoid hindsight bias

■ Comparison Class ■ Dialectical Complexity



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# Superforecasting in 5 Steps

- 1) **Start with a Base Rate:** Find good comparison classes and then tackle the specifics of the question
- 2) **Record your Forecasts:** Write down your forecasts and reasoning to avoid hindsight bias
- 3) **Compare:** Share your reasoning with other forecasters and take advantage of their diverse views





# Team Risk: Group Think



$A + B + C$



$B + C + D$



$C + D + E$

$A + B + C + D + E$





# Team Solution: Delphi Method

Estimate (independently)

Talk (anonymously)

Update (independently)

Delphi Mitigates:  
~~Group Think~~  
~~Social Pressure Cascade~~  
~~Analysis Paralysis Cascade~~

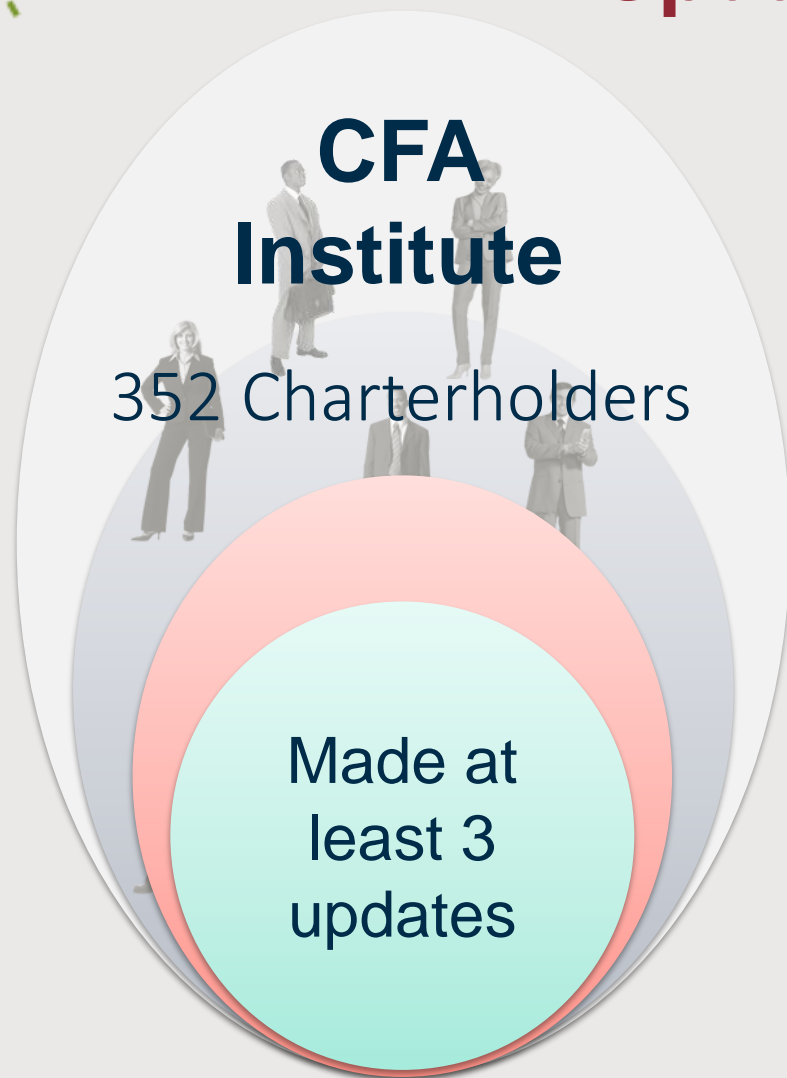


# Superforecasting in 5 Steps



- 1) Start with a Base Rate:** Find good comparison classes and then tackle the specifics of the question
- 2) Record your Forecasts:** Write down your forecasts and reasoning to avoid hindsight bias
- 3) Compare:** Share your reasoning with other forecasters and take advantage of their diverse views
- 4) Update:** As new information comes in and your views evolve, change your forecast

# Updating Forecasts



Forecast per question	% accuracy improvement
At least 1 update	148%
At least 2 updates	342%
At least 3 updates	767%



# Superforecasting in 5 Steps

**1) Start with a Base Rate:** Find good comparison classes and then tackle the specifics of the question

**2) Record your Forecasts:** Write down your forecasts and reasoning to avoid hindsight bias

**3) Compare:** Share your reasoning with other forecasters and take advantage of their diverse views

**4) Update:** As new information comes in and your views evolve, change your forecast

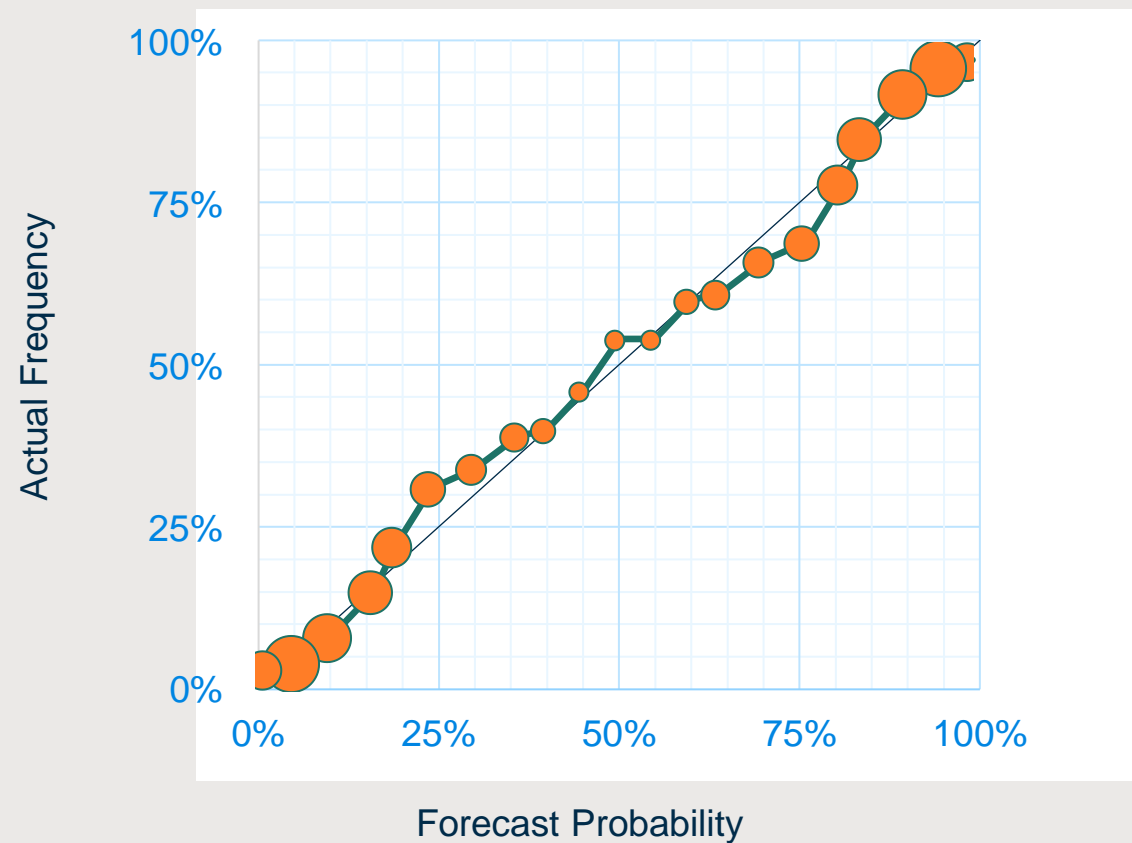
**5) Keep Score:** When questions resolve, score the results and review your progress

	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	-	×	×	9/	7/	8/	7/7
7		116	136	153	172	181	198
×	5	72	9/	9-	×	8/	×
7		86	105	114	134		





# The Payoff: Superforecaster Calibration and Resolution







# Superforecasting 101

- 1) **Start with a Base Rate:** Find good comparison classes and then tackle the specifics of the question
- 2) **Record your Forecasts:** Write down your forecasts and reasoning to avoid hindsight bias
- 3) **Compare:** Share your reasoning with other forecasters and take advantage of their diverse views
- 4) **Update:** As new information comes in and your views evolve, change your forecast
- 5) **Keep Score:** When questions resolve, score the results and review your progress



For each question please enter your updated forecast, explaining why you did or did not change your views.

Before 1 January 2022, will the United States Olympic Committee announce that it is boycotting the 2022 Winter Olympics?

Minimum Forecast: 0%

Maximum Forecast: 0%

Median Forecast: 0%

**UPDATE:** Before 1 January 2022, will the United States Olympic Committee announce that it is boycotting the 2022 Winter Olympics?

Your prior forecast:

Please give your reasoning for updating.

Submit

Please enter your updated estimate from 0% to 100%... ..and click “submit.”

STARTED Aug 28, 2020 01:00PM • CLOSING Jan 1, 2022 03:01AM (in 2 months)

The [Mercator Institute for China Studies \(MERICS\)](#) and [WBHumanoid](#) ask:

## Before 1 January 2022, will the United States Olympic Committee announce that it is boycotting the 2022 Winter Olympics?



### TAGS

Society Sports US Policy

### CHALLENGES

Dubai Future Experts Challenge 2021

In the News 2021 Foxes Ask

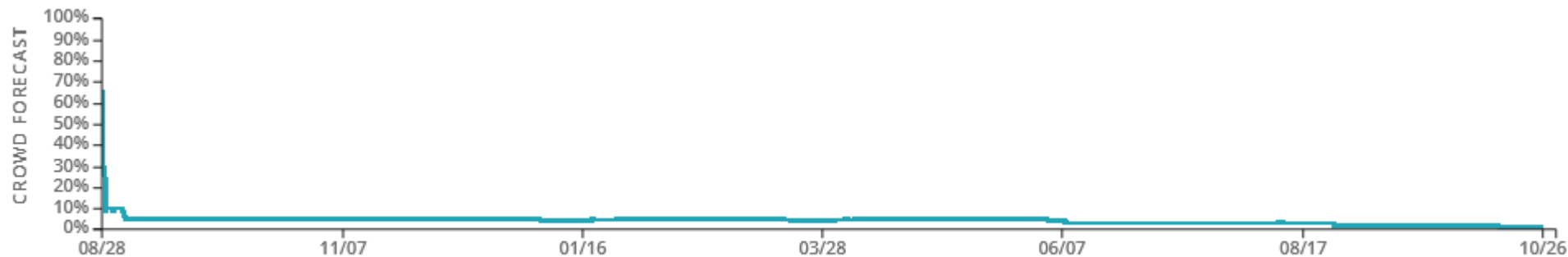
China and the World in 2021

Countries have boycotted the Olympics for various reasons throughout history ([Montreal Gazette](#), [Dept. of State](#), [History.com](#)). Some groups are calling on nations to boycott the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics due to China's treatment of its Uighur population ([Daily Sabah](#), [Politico](#), [Olympic.org](#)).

Confused? Check our [FAQ](#) or [ask us for help](#). To learn more about Good Judgment and Superforecasting, [click here](#).

To learn more about how you can become a Superforecaster, [see here](#). For other posts from our Insights blog, [click here](#).

**NOTE 24 May 2021:** The question asks about an announcement by the United States Olympic Committee. Whether the US sends persons other than athletes (e.g., political dignitaries) is immaterial.



# What the Superforecasters say for FutureFirst subscribers

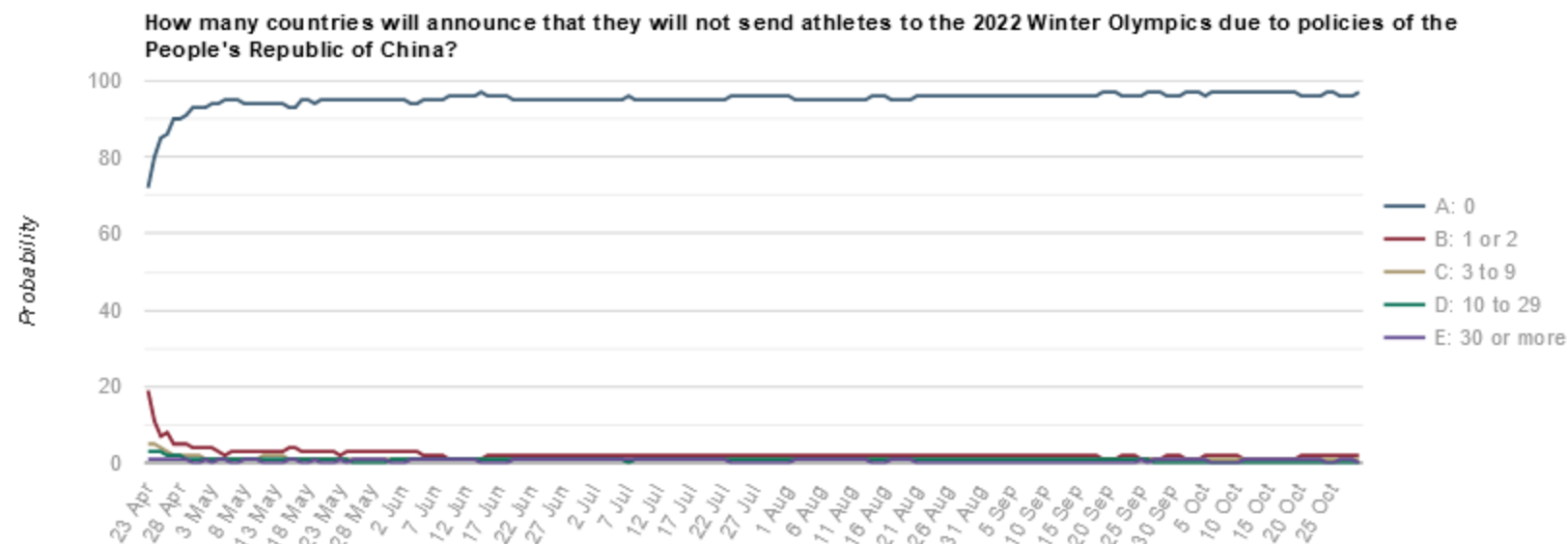
How many countries will announce that they will not send athletes to the 2022 Winter Olympics due to policies of the People's Republic of China?

- A 0
- B 1 or 2
- C 3 to 9
- D 10 to 29
- E 30 or more

Remove from WatchList

Today's Forecast	1-week Change
97%	▲ 1
2%	—
1%	—
0%	—
0%	▼ 1

CLOSE DETAILS

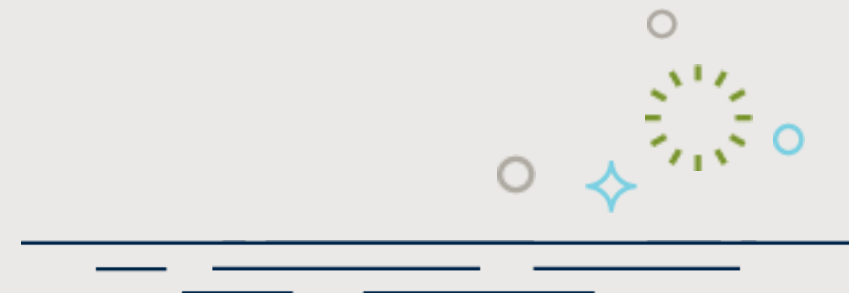


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# Thank You

**Dr Warren Hatch, CEO**









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