

More Discussion Ideas

Types of discussion

- Exploratory (open ended). What is going on? Who is involved? What just happened to...?
- Challenge (get at underlying reasons). Why do you think that? That's just the opposite of what ___ said. Does anyone disagree with this viewpoint? Why?
- Relational (connect). How does X relate to Y? How would you connect what you just said to what ___ just said?
- Diagnostic (how do you interpret and explain). Why did ___?
- Action. What would you do in this situation? What should ___ do?
- Prediction (what will happen). What do you think will happen next?
- Cause and effect.
- Extension (elaboration). Why do you think that? Could you explain what you mean by ___? Can you give an example? What else can you add?
- Hypothetical (What if). Suppose thatthen?
- Priority (ranking). What was the most important factor? What should be done first? Second?
- Summary. What can we learn? What conclusions should we draw? `

Starting discussion

Start with a sentence completion exercise

-What struck me most about the text we read to prepare for the discussion today ...

-The question I'd most like to ask the author of the text is ...

-The idea I most take issue with in the text is ...

-The most crucial point in last week's lecture was

Respond to a video clip

Use quotations to affirm and challenge

Discuss a case, illustration, narrative, poem, photograph, drawing, story, film

Blogs

Idea for discussion – Journaling gives the instructor and student a one-on-one communication mode (assuming the entire class cannot read them) where the student can respond and discuss their work

Idea for discussion – Blogs are an entry by a person with the ability for people to comment in a linear fashion, as a result it can be used as a journal/threaded discussion supplement or to allow students to respond to each other's work

Wiki

Idea for discussion – Allow students to collaborate on responses for the class as each edit and update can be tracked and watched ~ let them create the “definitive” answer

WebQuest: “A WebQuest is an inquiry-oriented activity in which most or all of the information used by learners is drawn from the Web. WebQuests are designed to use learners' time well, to focus on using information rather than looking for it, and to support learners' thinking at the levels of analysis, synthesis and evaluation. The model was developed in early 1995 at San Diego State University by Bernie Dodge with Tom March.

WebWalk: “An educational journey crafted by the instructor or student. It is an instructional tool that combines a series of links to sites on the World Wide Web with necessary commentary or reflection. The purpose of a WebWalk is to offer an experiential learning activity that compliments a particular lesson or specific educational content. Unlike a WebQuest, the ultimate goal is not the completion of a project or assignment; instead the WebWalk engages students in a sensory or intellectual experience and encourages critical thinking.”