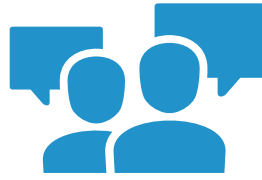


DISCUSSION & DEBATE



LIVE

Students discuss a theory or concept and in doing so identify and more deeply consider strengths, weaknesses, alternatives, comparisons, inconsistencies, application in different contexts etc.

Core Enhancing Technology



Key Enhancements

- **Social Construction** — it's an established learning theory that students learn by creating and modifying understanding through exposure to different viewpoints, interpretations and ideas of peers.
- **Active learning** — opportunities for discussion allow students to interact with received knowledge and by questioning and challenging concepts can correct misconceptions and refine understanding.
- **Higher order skills** — analysis and evaluation are higher order Bloom's taxonomy skills and developing a range of oracy skills is key for employability.

Teaching and Learning Ideas

- Ask groups of students to prepare and deliver arguments on opposite sides of a debate. They could use Office 365 software such as OneNote to collate research, and by sharing the files would ensure that all participants have access to the material for reinforcement and revision. Preparing to support or discredit an idea can focus the mind on deeper analysis of the underlying principles and detail of the concept.
- The instructor can change the dynamic of the debate by adopting different roles. Consider acting as chair, contributor or devil's advocate as appropriate to maximise rich discussion.
- Using Wordwall to gather opinions and/or first impressions and ideas before a discussion can prompt richer discussions by highlighting the initial standpoint of the cohort instead of engaging with a topic "cold". Setting students the challenge of changing opinions taken before and after a debate can add a motivating factor to debate activities.
- Sony Vision Exchange enables students to easily share their content with the whole cohort, facilitating discussion of students' own ideas rather than instructor material only.
- Skype for Business facilitates discussion across disparate groups and makes input by guest contributors or international links easier and more cost-effective.

Try Also...

Padlet's interactive noticeboard can be a good way of starting a discussion—get students to post their initial ideas then discuss.

Available Help and Guides

Sony Vision Exchange User Guide
LanSchool User Guide
Skype for Business—Calling and Messaging Use
Wordwall for...Voting and Polling