

**CENTER  
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LEARNING**

# **Discussion-Based Learning**



# Overview

- Discussion Format
- Developing Discussion Questions
- Expectations
- Advancing Discussions



# **Discussion Format**

## **Activity #1**

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**Successful or favorite  
Discussions?**

# Discussion Format

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- Jigsaw
- Short writing pre or post reflections
- Zoom Breakout rooms (4-6 students)
- Pair & compare
- Think- pair- share

# Format Resource

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The Discussion Book: 50 Great Ways to Get People Talking  
by Stephen D. Brookfield and Stephen Preskill

- Discussions for New Groups
- Promoting Good Questioning
- Fostering Active Listening
- Getting out of Comfort Zone
- Text-based
- Building Group Cohesion
- Decision Making



## **Activity #2**

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How will you transfer your current discussions to the online environment (Zoom or Canvas)?



# **Developing Discussion Question**



# **Types of Discussion Questions**

- Application: Plan, Design, Utilize, Implement, apply
- Analysis: Compare, Contrast, Differentiate, Outline, Distinguish, Discover, Classify
- Synthesis: Dispute, Justify, Support, Verify, Integrate
- Evaluation: Solve, Predict, Improve, Judge

# **Developing a Discussion Question**

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Ask questions that allow student to draw on past experiences and expert sources as they

- Make new connections
- Reach a judgment or decision
- Create a list/complete a task
- Articulate implications of text
- Solve an authentic problem
- Interpret or critique

# **Developing Response prompts**

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How did a peer's comment :

- Contribute to learning
- Change or affirm opinion
- Clarify a concept or idea
- Introduce a new perspective or connection

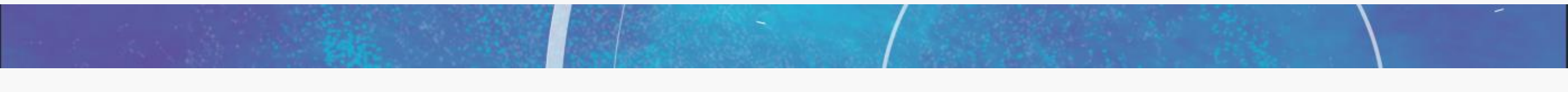


# **Expectations**

## **Activity #3**

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**Guidelines or detailed  
instruction discussion**



# Grading Expectations

Provide detailed [rubric](#)

- Citing sources
- Number of words
- Number of peer replies
- Initial post due date
- Replies due date

Criteria	Ratings				Pts
Critical Thinking	<b>30 pts</b> <b>Exemplary</b> Draws insightful conclusions that are thoroughly defended with evidence and examples	<b>26 pts</b> <b>Proficient</b> Draws informed conclusions that are justified with evidence	<b>21 pts</b> <b>Needs Improvement</b> Draws logical conclusions	<b>0 pts</b> <b>Not Evident</b> Does not draw logical conclusions	30 pts
Comprehension	<b>20 pts</b> <b>Exemplary</b> Develops an initial post with an organized, clear point of view or idea using rich and significant detail	<b>16 pts</b> <b>Proficient</b> Develops an initial post with a point of view or idea using appropriate detail	<b>14 pts</b> <b>Needs Improvement</b> Develops an initial post with a point of view or idea but with some gaps in organization and detail	<b>0 pts</b> <b>Not Evident</b> Does not develop an initial post with an organized point of view or idea	20 pts
Engagement	<b>20 pts</b> <b>Exemplary</b> Provides relevant and meaningful response posts with clarifying explanation and detail	<b>16 pts</b> <b>Proficient</b> Provides relevant response posts with some explanation and detail	<b>14 pts</b> <b>Needs Improvement</b> Provides somewhat relevant response posts with some explanation and detail	<b>0 pts</b> <b>Not Evident</b> Provides response posts that are generic with little explanation or detail	20 pts
Writing and Grammar	<b>20 pts</b> <b>Exemplary</b> Initial post and responses are easily understood, clear, and concise using proper citation methods where applicable with no errors in citations	<b>16 pts</b> <b>Proficient</b> Initial post and responses are easily understood using proper citation methods where applicable with few errors in citations	<b>14 pts</b> <b>Needs Improvement</b> Initial post and responses are understandable using proper citation methods where applicable with a number of errors in citations	<b>0 pts</b> <b>Not Evident</b> Initial post and responses are not understandable and do not use proper citation methods where applicable	20 pts
Timeliness	<b>10 pts</b> <b>Proficient</b> Submits an initial post on time	<b>7 pts</b> <b>Needs Improvement</b> Submits initial post one day late	<b>0 pts</b> <b>Not Evident</b> Submits initial post two or more days late		10 pts
Total Points: 100					



# Guidelines needed

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- Group Contract or guidelines
- Clearly defined roles, tasks, and timelines
- Flexibility
- Provide [student self-reflection guide](#)

# Group Work Expectations

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Guidelines that encourage mindfulness and respectful dialogue

- All are welcome to express their ideas and opinions
- Take time to understand the opinions of theirs
- Use critical thinking in discussions

## Clarity

Could you elaborate further?  
Could you give me an example?  
Could you illustrate what you mean?

## Accuracy

How could we check on that?  
How could we find out if that is true?  
How could we verify or test that?

## Precision

Could you be more specific?  
Could you give me more details?  
Could you be more exact?

## Relevance

How does that relate to the problem?  
How does that bear on the question?  
How does that help us with the issue?

## Depth

What factors make this a difficult problem?  
What are some of the complexities of this question?  
What are some of the difficulties we need to deal with?

## Breadth

Do we need to look at this from another perspective?  
Do we need to consider another point of view?  
Do we need to look at this in other ways?

## Logic

Does all this make sense together?  
Does your first paragraph fit in with your last?  
Does what you say follow from the evidence?

## Significance

Is this the most important problem to consider?  
Is this the central idea to focus on?  
Which of these facts are most important?

## Fairness

Do I have any vested interest in this issue?  
Am I sympathetically representing the viewpoints of others?

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# **Advancing Discussions**

## **Activity #4**

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How do you advance discussions in your course?

# Prompts

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- Build to complex questioning
- Explore another point of view
- Benefits and disadvantages
- Shift time frame
- Follow-up question
- Explore differences in discussion

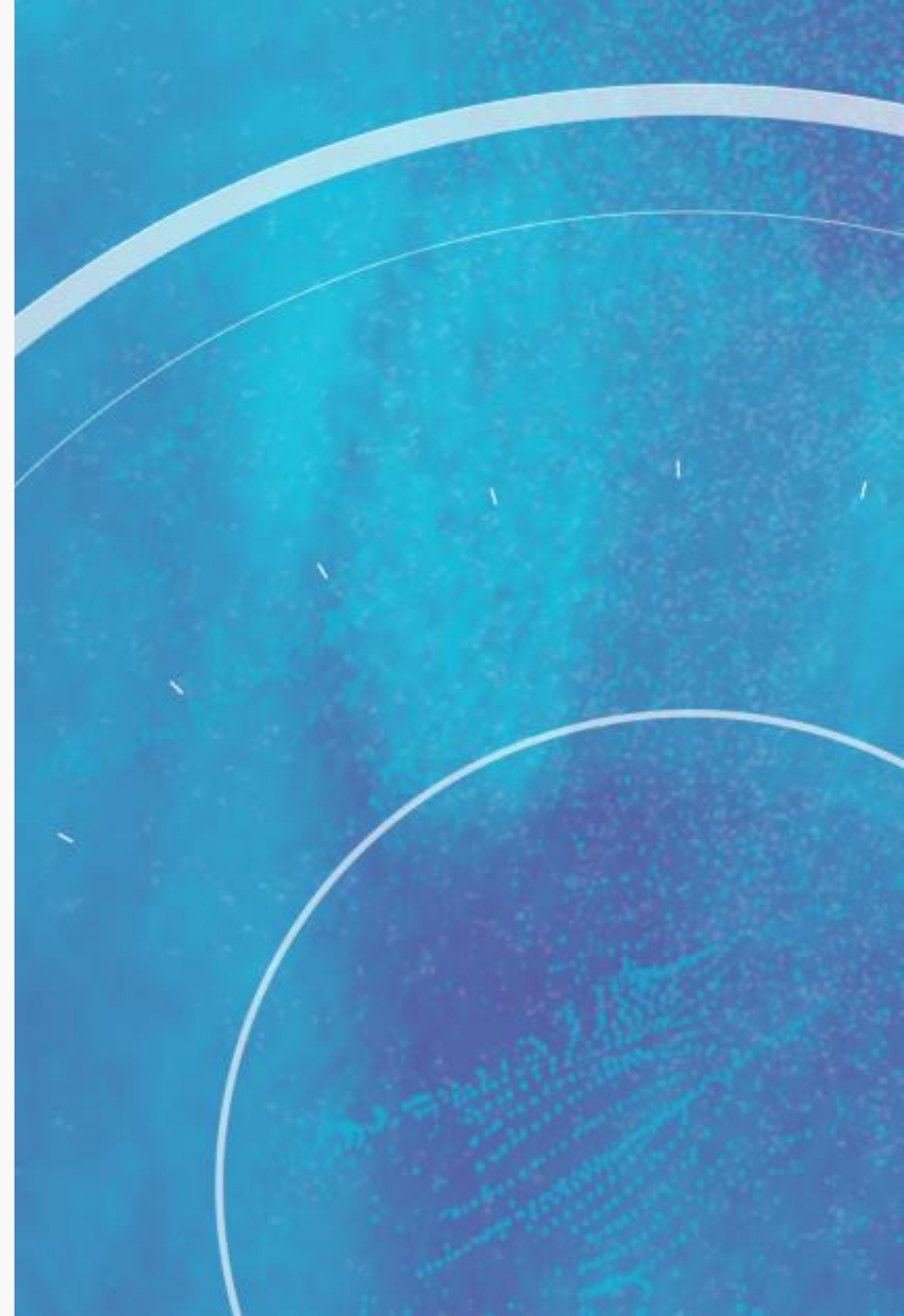
# Debriefing and Feedback

- Debriefing
  - Correct incorrect notions
  - Add neglected points
  - Summarize ideas
- Provide feedback Strategically



# Review

- Discussion Format
- Developing Discussion Questions
- Expectations
- Advancing Discussions



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**Thank you!**

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