

FOSTERING DISCUSSION AND DISAGREEMENT IN THE CLASSROOM

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BEST SUPERHERO?



WORST DICTATOR?



Teachers need to use **various approaches** to hone the art of argument by **deciding on** and **defending issues** of significance, **conducting debates**, putting historical figures on trial and using a spectrum to make judgements. The **aim** of quality discussion and disagreement is to ensure an **argument** becomes the **foundation** of students' written work.



What classroom discussion IS

- Real discussions require accountability; learn from one another.
- Discussions involve disagreement, not direct interpersonal disputes.
- They involve moving from less knowledge about a topic to more knowledge.

Harvard Graduate School of Education



“When I hear people in debates say that there is no need to teach knowledge because you can just look it up on Google, I think that is profoundly wrong. Knowledge has to have roots... You can’t effectively debate, argue and reason without knowledge and understanding.”

Melissa Benn, *School Wars* 2012



HOW DO WE DO IT?

Surface Learning → **Deep Learning**

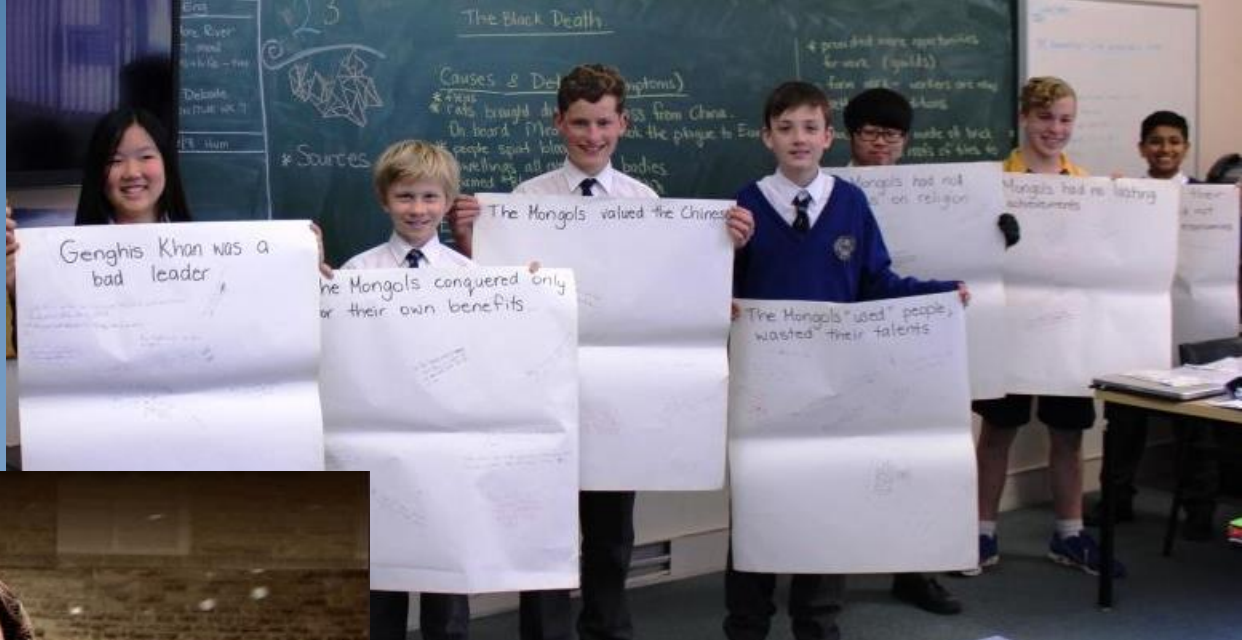
Facts/Knowledge always precede skills

Two Secrets:

Explicit and Practiced



IDEAS:

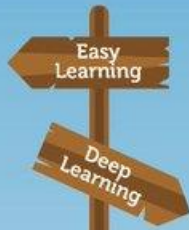


PART A: DEVELOP A RESEARCH QUESTION AND PLAN

1. → Choose a topic related to World War I that interests you (e.g. a particular battle, country or person, the social effects of the war, causes, technology and weapons, etc.)

2. → Write an open-ended question about the topic. (Don't write a "closed" question which only requires a short, factual answer. Write one that you can make an historical argument about.)

JAMES NOTTINGHAM'S THE LEARNING CHALLENGE



Concept

Find a concept worth exploring that you know a little bit about.



Question

Find the problems, the nuances and the exceptions to your concept. You can do this by comparing your concept with another, considering if it always applies, or trying to find a definition that works in all cases.



Cognitive Conflict

If you've uncovered lots of examples and exceptions to your concept, and realised how complex your chosen concept is, then you are in The Pit! This is where deep learning really gets going.

Eureka!

Eureka: you found it! The feeling of enlightenment and discovery you feel at this stage is the ecstasy of learning. This is what makes the learning journey so worthwhile. Congratulations for persevering!



Construct

Identify patterns, relationships and meanings between all the ideas you've uncovered. Distinguish between them by sorting, classifying, grouping or ranking. Use your findings to create a more precise understanding of your concept.



Consider

Look back at your learning journey. Which strategies worked best? What would you change next time? How can you apply your new understanding to different contexts?

Challenging
LEARNING
@TheLearningPit

FINAL NOTE:

We need to respect the faith positions of our schools and the truths taught.

...”be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.” 1 Peter 3:15.



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