Online Discussions: Debate Examples

Debates encourage students to think critically and to organize their thoughts in a clear, cohesive and convincing manner.

Example #1

Debate Topic: Is theory important to instructional design?
For this discussion, your instructor has assigned you to one of two groups representing the two sides of a debate.

Initial Post:
With your group, develop an argument for the position you were assigned. Your argument should follow the premise and conclusion model described in Tavani’s Ethics and Technology, Chapter 3, Section 3.1.2, “The Basic Structure of an Argument” and should include at least 2 premises.

There are two threads for this discussion:
Theory Is Important for Instructional Design.
Theory Is Not Important for Instructional Design.

Based on the argument you have developed with your group, post your individual response, presenting your case in the appropriate discussion thread. Use relevant literature to support your position.

Response Posts:
Review the posts for arguments contrary to yours. Respond to at least one peer, challenging his or her position. Your goal is to persuade your peer to take your side of the argument.

Reference:

Example #2

For this week’s discussion, we will consider a current legal case involving copyright law.

Instructions

1. Read through an overview of the case provided in Blackboard, The Google Library Project: The Copyright Debate”.

Kent State Online – http://www.kent.edu/onlineteaching

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2. Review the “facts sheet” as well as the two brief summaries of opposing arguments around the Google library project.

3. Once you have considered both perspectives as well as the law at hand please post a thoughtful, well-reasoned decision in the discussion board. To access your group’s discussion board, click the Group link in the main menu in Blackboard. Make sure to post in the forum titled “Google Books Copyright Case”

   - Post your argument in the thread that corresponds with your judgment.
     - Supporting Google’s Position
     - Supporting the Author’s Guild Position

   - A full credit response will consist of 5-8 sentences and is well reasoned and thoughtful. Please review the rubric that will be used to grade your participation before beginning.

4. In addition, you are required to post a reply to a fellow student with the opposite opinion.

   - Reply posts do not need to be as long as your original opinion post (3-6 sentences) but they should challenge an aspect of the original poster’s opinion. Your reply post should counter their argument and play devil’s advocate to their opinion.