

**FSI 2016  
ONLINE DISCUSSIONS –  
THAT WORK!**

Please join  
our  
Facebook  
discussion  
simulation.

# DISCUSSION SIMULATION

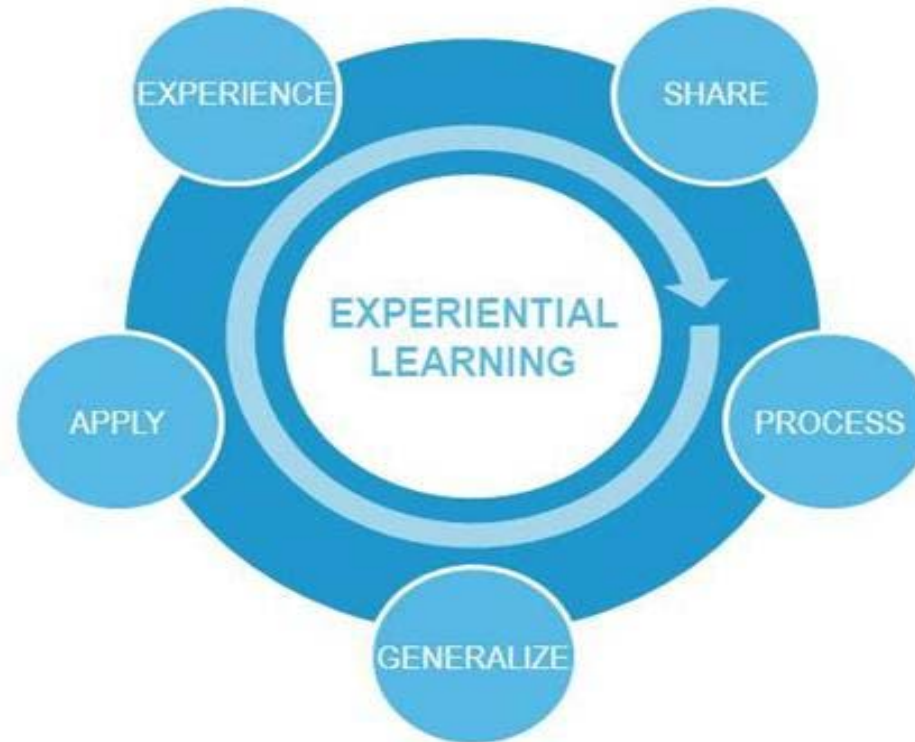
- This discussion is based on the new CDC federal guidelines on painkilling medications.
- Please open and read the article or watch the video summary.
  - <http://www.cbsnews.com/news/opioid-painkiller-guidelines/>
- After reviewing the article, please write a reply by answering any or all of the following discussion questions.
  - 1. Is the current media attention about opioids preventing legitimate patients from getting the pain medication they need?
  - 2. How might patient expectations of being prescribed an opioid impacting this issue?
  - 3. If you agree that the overuse of opioids is an issue, do you feel that current medical practices can be modified to promote safer pain management options?

LAURI DERUITER-WILLEMS  
KATHY PHILLIPS



# EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

## Kolb's Experiential Learning



# ACTIVE LEARNING

## Passive activities

- ✓ Simple listening or reading
- ✓ Hearing or seeing information
- ✓ Students:
  - ✓ See it
  - ✓ Hear it
  - ✓ Know it?
  - ✓ Maybe, maybe NOT!

## Active activities

- ✓ Mindful listening – with a purpose
- ✓ Mindful learning
  - ✓ Use complex, ill-defined problems
  - ✓ Use real-world settings
    - ✓ Do
    - ✓ Reflect
    - ✓ Conclude

# DISCUSSIONS AS TOOLS FOR EXPERIENTIAL AND ACTIVE LEARNING

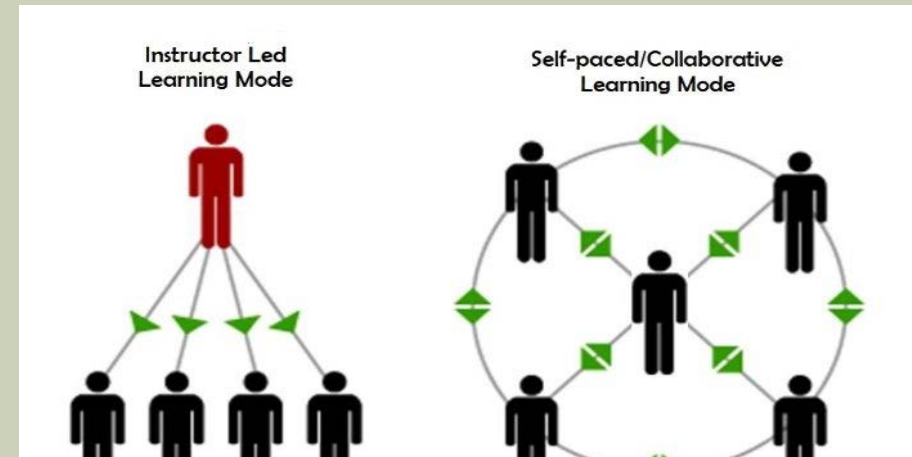
- Online and asynchronous teaching and learning requires commitment of **active involvement** from both instructor and student.
- Present material as
  - problems to be solved
  - consider of multiple solutions
- Students realize that problem-posing education
  - develops critical thinking skills
  - know that reality is dynamic, evolving, processing

# DISCUSSIONS

## ■ Instructor directed



## ■ Student/Peer directed



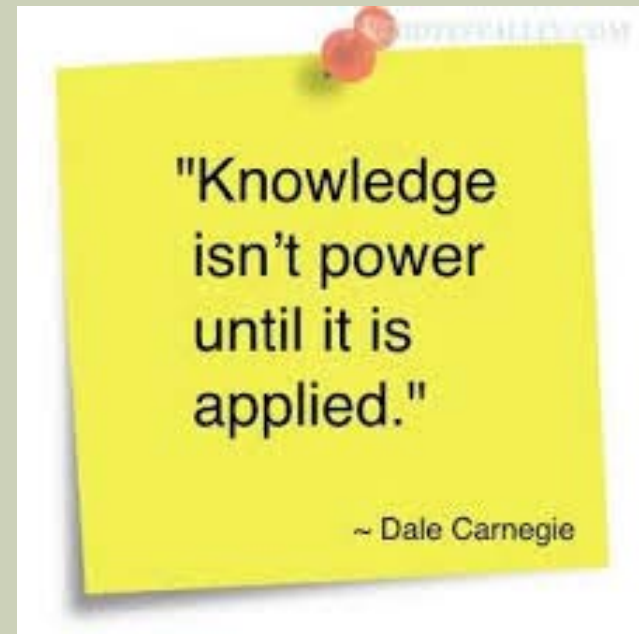
- ✓ Instructor serves as resource
- ✓ Learners spend equal time reflecting on solution and getting feedback

# TYPE OF MATERIAL/CLASS

- Instructor directed  
Content oriented



- Student directed  
Apply content





# EXPERIENCES - EXAMPLES

- Health and Aging
- Drugs and Society
- Controversial – “Pro/Con” Topics



# EXAMPLES

## Student Discussion Leader's Role

- Reserve a topic of choice
- Research – post an “Overview” – both sides!
- Identify/post key “questions”
- “Lead” the discussion
- Develop & Post “Consensus”
  
- A sample of student directed discussion can be reviewed in the next few slides.

# STUDENT DIRECTED EXAMPLE

## OVERVIEW: SHOULD EXTENDING THE US "LIFE EXPECTANCY" BE A PRIORITY?

- Today people are looking for every way possible to extend their life. Researchers and doctors continue to study life expectancy with the hope to find ways to extend life more than they have already. Technology, agriculture, medicine, and others has helped alter the delicate balance between population growth and population reduction factors. (Chiras, 2013). Our society has come a very long way in extending the life of human beings. However, what many fail to think of is the population growth of our world today. 1.6 million people will join the human population every week and 83 million people will join the world every year. Our population currently exceeds the carrying capacity of its environment to be able to supply resources to everyone and to digest waste that is produced. Instead of currently focusing too many resources on life expectancy it may make more sense to put those resources towards population sustainability.
- In the United States alone houses about 5% of the world's population, but consumes 25% of the world's energy. All told, the more developed nations, which represent 30% of the world's population, consume 75% of the world's resources! Our numbers are few, but our impact is enormous (Chiras, 2013). To consider life expectancy would mean that one would also have to consider food supplies, appropriate sanitation, water purification, and modern medicine which have a major effect on the death rates. This will allow people to expand their lives. I believe there is nothing wrong with this, but at the same time without considering the population sustainability it might not matter one day as there will be no room left for farmers to farm and food to grow as the population will have overtaken the amount of space on the earth itself.
- As it stands the human population already consumes 40% of the earth's primary terrestrial productivity meaning 40% of the plant matter produced on land. By extending life expectancy it will only enhance the fact that it will cause a widespread extinction of animals and plants along with ecological services which are vital for human survival. If mankind wants to extend life, then we should focus on the one thing which is controlling ourselves. Keeping a healthy lifestyle, positive energy, a good attitude, regular doctor visits, and family and friends is the best way one should try to extend life.

# STUDENT DIRECTED EXAMPLE

## OVERVIEW: SHOULD EXTENDING THE US "LIFE EXPECTANCY" BE A PRIORITY?

- **Positives aspects of life expectancy:**
  - Longevity of life
  - Possibly turning around the hands of time prolonging youth
  - Having more time to spend with family and see more family
  - An opportunity to guide the youth of the future based on an understanding of an old past experience; an experience that has surpassed the average amount of time on this earth for people ever before. These sometimes are the best history lessons one can provide to the young
- **Negative aspects of life expectancy:**
  - Over population of the earth
  - Losing more space for food to grow by land
  - Extinction of animals and plants
  - More money must be provided for the care of the elderly
  - This could also affect social security and its availability to others
  - Taxes could increase to cover Medicare – more health issues can arise by living longer
  - The earth would no longer be a sustainable place to be in the future

# STUDENT DIRECTED EXAMPLE QUESTIONS

1. Human sustainability is a very important factor of your future generation survival. Do you feel that we should focus more so on the birth rates, death rates, or both and why?
2. Do you feel that it is a priority for the US to focus on extending life?
3. Have you ever considered the effects of human sustainability ever before? Most people never view it from this perspective. If you have not, how do you feel about it now? If you have, what are your current thoughts?

# STUDENT DIRECTED EXAMPLE

## CONSENSUS

- Thank you all for participating in the discussion. I chose this topic because I am also currently in an environmental science class. I did not realize how unstable our society was until I started reading the book and doing the homework. As a whole our country is overpopulated, and I believe it is not important for the US to focus on extending life expectancy. I believe more money should be spent in cancer, HIV/AIDS, and other diseases for finding cures, vaccinations and more. Living to be 100 is a gift, but one needs to ask themselves what type of life would you have?
- Majority of the class felt that it was important to focus on both the birth and death rates. The class felt it was important to understand the birth and death rates for further medical understanding and research. They also felt it was necessary to understand the birth rate vs. the death rate to define statistics on what production will be required in the future to come.
- Most of the class did feel that it was necessary to focus on extending life in the US. Many believe it is important to live a great quality of life to its fullest extent. However, many of people also believed that while extending life is great, but to what extent. How will this affect people financially, and what would it do to healthcare. It was also brought up the fact if it would be available to all people.
- Many of you have not thought about sustainability to this degree, and have given you another perspective to look at the situation. Others of you have viewed it from a sustainable perspective, and some of you it has overwhelmed while others felt that it is something that is very important to consider in our future.

# EXAMPLE RUBRIC (DISCUSSION LEADER)

<b>Discussion Leader – 25 points</b>				
	Does not meet Expectations	Almost Meets Expectations	EXPECTATIONS Meets Expectations	Exceeds Expectations
	2	3	4	5
Overview			Overview is of acceptable quality demonstrating appropriate level of understanding of the assignment; introduces both sides of the issue; provides some sources or references for more information.	
Discussion Questions			Relevant questions presented that have the potential to initiate discussion about the issues of the controversy.	
Discussion Direction			Engaged in the discussion a few times during the week; occasionally cited additional references; occasionally connected comments of participants	
Consensus			Effectively summarizes the general opinion of the class on the topic; provided some specific connections to class comments and opinions.	
Overall Quality			Effort meets the intent of the assignment. Work demonstrates appropriate engagement in assignment.	

# EXAMPLE RUBRIC (DISCUSSION PARTICIPATION)

<b>Discussion Participation – 20 points</b>					
	Does not meet Expectations	Almost Meets Expectations	EXPECTATIONS Meets Expectations	Exceeds Expectations	Really Exceeds Expectations
	6	7	8	9	10
<b>Participation</b>			Responded to required minimum (15) discussions		
<b>Quality of Comments</b>			Appropriate responses; some connections made to other comments		

**•Helpful Hints:**

Make your responses thoughtful – rather than just adding sentences so the assignment is done!! Feel free to relate personal experiences/knowledge to your responses – we can all learn from each other’s experience.

- Pay attention to the deadlines – posting a comment after the Consensus Statement is posted is not good – and won’t be recorded in the grade book!



# BENEFITS OF ON-LINE DISCUSSIONS

## ■ Students

### ■ Safe environment

- – quiet, ESL students, hearing impaired....

### ■ Allows time to process and develop comments

### ■ More comfortable asking for clarification

### ■ Actively reorganize to explain clearly to others

### ■ Peer learning

# BENEFITS OF ON-LINE DISCUSSIONS

- Peer learning works
  - Students more comfortable talking with peers
  - “...working cooperatively is essential for most vocations”
  - better cognitive outcomes
  - higher-level student questions
  - mutual support
  - more consistent, regular participation
  - “locus of learning is in the students head”

# BENEFITS OF ON-LINE DISCUSSIONS

## ■ Faculty

- Avoids top down, content heavy posts
- Ease of evaluation
- Guarantee student participation
- New perspectives

# BEST PRACTICES

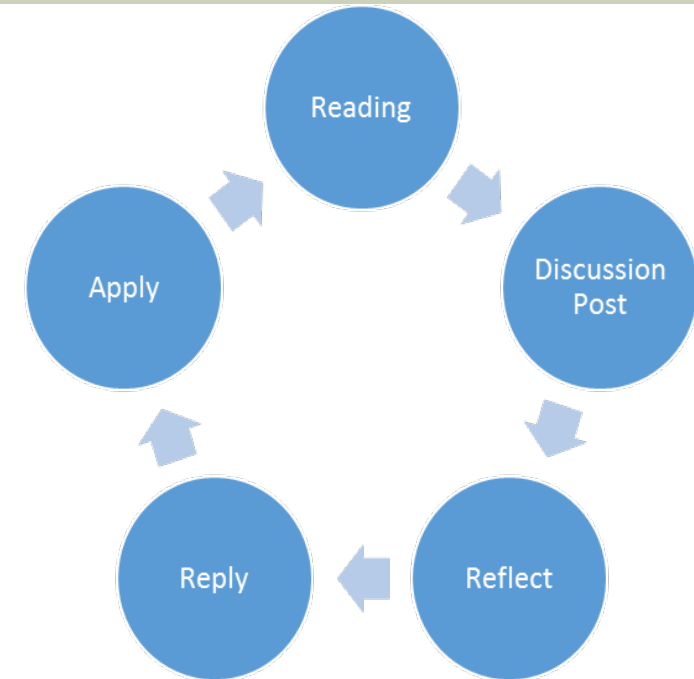
- **Clear expectations**
  - Rubric/evaluation ... heavy grade value
    - Quantity
    - Quality
  - Time frame
- **Introduction/practice**
- **Opening prompt**
- **Closing/consensus**

# ACTIVE AND EXPERIENTIAL

## Kolb's Experiential Learning



## Our experiential online discussions



QA

# REFERENCES

- Kolb, D. A. (1981). *Learning style inventory: Self-scoring inventory and interpretation booklet*. Boston, MA: McBer & Company.
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- Svinicki, M. D. & McKeachie W. J. (2014). *McKeachie's teaching tips: Strategies, research, and theory for college and university teachers*. Wadsworth, Cengage Learning, Belmont, CA.
- Yardley, S., Teunissen, P. W., & Dornan, T. (2012). Experiential learning: Transforming theory into practice. *Medical Teacher*, 34(2), 161-164.