

## Preparation for Constructive Participation

You have an assignment. Maybe you need to write a paper, give a short presentation, or participate in a discussion. What is important to recognize is that you are not being asked to merely tell someone what you know, but instead to use critical awareness and critical thinking to create your own opinions or ideas.

- You need to make sure you understand the topic.
- You need to make sure you understand the information from a variety of sources.
- You need to make sure you have some of your own ideas.
- You need to communicate clearly with others.

**Note:** Reading at university is for the purpose of *building your knowledge and understanding* of an idea or concept in order to develop your own conclusions (critical thinking). So, you need to pick and choose what you need to read. And take short notes!

EGGS	Taxonomy of Thinking
<b><u>E – establish the topic</u></b>  What is the specific topic? What is the thesis of the writer, speaker, group member? You?  What are the key definitions?	Describe. Define. Recognize.
<b><u>G – gather evidence</u></b>  What are the main ideas? What details can be helpful? (facts, data, opinions) How has the source applied the information? (examples) What are different sources saying that is similar? What are different sources saying that is different?	Understand. Explain. Apply. Analyze. Evaluate.
<b><u>G – generate ideas, hypotheses, solutions, arguments, etc.</u></b>  How can you use the information gathered to support your own ideas, solutions, arguments?  Develop your independent thought. Then, support it with other sources.	Create. Synthesize. Mediate.

<p><b><u>S – share</u></b></p> <p>Choose an appropriate method for sharing the information.</p> <p><b>a) Discussion – construct something (idea, solution, argument, clarity, understanding) together as a team</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Face to face</li> <li>2. Interaction – speaking and listening</li> <li>3. Spontaneous, NOT scripted (you can only prepare for your speaking and you cannot know exactly what the others will say)</li> <li>4. Turn-taking as there are often 3 or more people involved and everyone is equal</li> <li>5. Negotiation – the floor is open for each group member to ask for facts, interpretations, evaluations</li> </ol> <p><b>b) Presentation – construct something (idea, solution, argument, clarity, understanding) either individually or with your partner</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Face to face</li> <li>2. Interaction – speaking and listening (often have visuals as well)</li> <li>3. Scripted (you prepare for your speaking, BUT you cannot know exactly what questions you may be asked)</li> <li>4. You have the stage and can decide how much participation is accepted from the listeners</li> <li>5. While you only have one chance to make the presentation, there is still the opportunity afterwards for someone to ask questions if there is confusion.</li> </ol> <p><b>c) Essay – construct something (idea, solution, argument, clarity, understanding)</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Not face to face</li> <li>2. Interaction – writing and reading</li> <li>3. Scripted (you organize and structure your writing to communicate the ideas coherently and smoothly for the reader)</li> <li>4. You only have one chance to make things clear.</li> </ol>	<p>Interact. Co-construct. Communicate..</p>
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