

Academic Discussion Skills Development

Understanding the PREP Method (20 minutes)

The PREP Method is a fundamental framework for structuring academic discussions. Let's explore each component:

Part 1: PREP Components

Fill in the missing components and provide an example for each:

Component	Definition	Your Example
Point	Your main argument or central idea	
Reason	The logical explanation supporting your point	
Evidence	Specific facts, research, or examples that support your reason	
Position	Your concluding stance that reinforces your point	

Practice Exercise: Social Media Impact Analysis

Using the PREP Method, develop a comprehensive response to the following topic:

Topic: "Social Media's Impact on Academic Performance"

Point: (State your main argument clearly)

Reason: (Explain the logic behind your point)

Evidence: (Provide specific examples or research)

Position: (Conclude with your reinforced stance)

Academic Discussion Analysis (30 minutes)

After watching the TED Talk "The Art of Academic Discussion," complete the following analysis:

Part 1: Core Components Analysis

Element	Your Analysis
Main Argument	
Supporting Evidence Types	
Counter-arguments Addressed	
Discussion Techniques	

Part 2: Effectiveness Evaluation

PREP Implementation Rating

Rating (1-5): ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5

Explanation:

Evidence Integration Rating

Rating (1-5): ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5

Explanation:

Structured Discussion Practice (40 minutes)

Form groups of 4 to discuss "Digital Learning vs. Traditional Classrooms"

Role Assignments

Role	Team Member	Key Responsibilities
Point Presenter		Introduces main arguments and leads discussion
Evidence Provider		Supplies research and supporting examples
Counter-argument Developer		Presents alternative viewpoints and challenges
Discussion Synthesizer		Summarizes key points and conclusions

Discussion Documentation

Main Points Raised:

Evidence Presented:

Counter-arguments Developed:

Final Synthesis:

Advanced Discussion Techniques (45 minutes)

Explore sophisticated discussion strategies and their implementation.

1. Socratic Questioning Method

Question Type	Purpose	Example
Clarification	To probe for deeper understanding	"What do you mean by...?"
Assumption Probing	To examine underlying beliefs	"What are we assuming here?"
Evidence Questions	To evaluate support for claims	"What evidence supports this?"

Practice Exercise: Develop Socratic Questions

Topic: "The Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Education"

1. Clarification Question:

2. Assumption Question:

3. Evidence Question:

Argument Mapping Exercise (35 minutes)

Create a detailed argument map for a complex academic discussion.

Topic: Environmental Sustainability in Schools

Central Claim:

Supporting Arguments

1.

2.

3.

Counter Arguments

1.

2.

3.

Evidence Evaluation Framework (40 minutes)

Learn to critically evaluate evidence in academic discussions.

CRAAP Test for Evidence Evaluation

Criterion	Key Questions	Your Assessment
Currency	When was the information published? Has it been updated?	
Relevance	How does this relate to your topic? Who is the intended audience?	
Authority	Who is the author/publisher? What are their credentials?	
Accuracy	Is the information supported by evidence? Has it been peer-reviewed?	
Purpose	Why was this information created? Is there potential bias?	

Final Assessment: Comprehensive Discussion Analysis (50 minutes)

Analyze and evaluate a complex academic discussion using all learned tools.

Part 1: Discussion Structure Analysis

Topic: "The Role of Technology in Future Education"

1. PREP Method Implementation

2. Evidence Quality (CRAAP Test)

3. Argument Mapping

4. Socratic Questioning Used

Part 2: Personal Reflection

1. What were the strongest elements of the discussion?

2. How could the discussion be improved?

3. What techniques were most effective?

4. How would you apply these lessons in future discussions?

Final Reflection

Consider your experience with academic discussions today and complete the following reflection:

1. What was your most significant learning from today's session?

2. How will you apply the PREP method in future academic discussions?

3. What aspects of academic discussion do you still want to improve?

My Academic Discussion Commitment

In my next academic discussion, I commit to:

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____