Janet Zydney
Learning Sciences and Technology
University of Cincinnati
Student Instructions

Prompt a Stand – The Role of Context

For our class discussion this module, we will be having a debate on the role that context should play in learning. On one side of the debate, Brown, Collins, and Duguid (1989) argue the following:

> Many methods of didactic instruction assume a separation between knowing and doing, treating knowledge as integral, self-sufficient substance, theoretically independent of the situations in which it is learned and used…. Recent investigations of learning, however, challenge this separating of what is learned from how it is learned and used. The activity in which knowledge is developed and deployed, it is now argued, is not separable from or ancillary to learning and cognition. Nor is it neutral. Rather it is an integral part of what is learned (p. 32).

On the other side of the debate, Anderson, Reder, & Simon (1986) takes issue with the claim that learning is dependent on context (as cited in Driscoll, 2005). They do not feel that situated cognition adds anything new or different to the study of learning.

For this debate, we will experiment with a new protocol called *Prompt a Stand* that combines *Take a Stand*, developed by Dr. Miriam Raider-Roth and *Provocative Prompts* (McDonald et al., 2003).

A. Part I – Join Voicethread

For this activity, we will learn to use a new technology tool for discussions called Voicethread.

1. Register for Voicethread by clicking here https://voicethread.com/register/?ReturnUrl=%2Fmyvoice%2F. **Due Wednesday, February 25**[th]

2. Review the Voicethread tutorial located in Blackboard within the Module 4 folder if you are unfamiliar with using Voicethread. Add your name to your profile and upload a picture of yourself or something that is representative of you. **Due Wednesday, February 25**[th]

B. Part I – Finding Your Role

For this activity, we will take on different roles:

Take a Standers – last name beginning with A - K

Devil's Advocates – last names beginning with L - Z

Due Sunday, March 1st

Janet Zydney
Learning Sciences and Technology
University of Cincinnati
Student Instructions

C. Part II - Take a Stand. Click on on the following link which will take you to the Voicethread discussion: http://voicethread.com/share/6651523/ From there, Take a Standers will choose 1 of 4 quotes that you will advocate. Your stance should solidly advocate one side of the issue and does not necessarily need to represent your true feelings. **Due Sunday, March 1st**

D. Part II – Devil's Advocates. Click on your Learning Sciences group within Voicethread and then click the Voicethread titled *Prompt a Stand*. From there, Devil's Advocates will chose 1 of 4 quotes and argue against the position. You should not only argue against the quote but play devil's advocate by arguing against other students'. Again this does not need to represent your true feelings. **Due Wednesday, March 4ᵗʰ**

E. Part III – Final Stance. On the last slide labeled "Final Stance," *Take a Standers* and *Devil's Advocates* will post a comment with your true feelings on the topic and how your ideas may have changed as a result of the debate. Share any new insights you have gained for your teaching or design of instruction. **Due Sunday, March 8th**

Tips for Success:

- Please make sure to explain your reasoning by referring to the readings.
- Try not to repeat someone else's ideas but rather add a new idea or extend the reasoning of people who have commented before you.
- After your initial post, try to make connections to other students' comments
- You may comment in whatever medium (text, voice, or video) that is most conducive to your learning.
- Once there are 5 people who have posted for either Take a Stand or Devil's Advocate (10 people total), then you must choose a new slide to comment on.