INGREDIENTS

PowerPoint

Voice Thread

BlackBoard

Microphone & webcam

Student-focused

pedagogy

From the kitchen of: Dr. Barry DeCoster

What's cooking: Discussion Leadership Project

TIPS

* Provide student instructions for using the Voice Thread (VT).

* Model best teaching practices in the first weeks so that students can see them in action.

* Create a VT discussion rubric to establish guidelines for this type of assignment.

* Use the VT settings to enable/disable functionalities to shape the activity.

* Remember the teaching responsibility is transferred to the students. Instructors should interject on a very limited basis.

* Provide feedback on *how to teach effectively*—not merely present materials.

METHOD

1. Create Discussion Leader Groups, assign each group a week to be in charge of the discussion, and provide the schedule of readings.

2. Meet with Discussion Leader Groups at least 1 week prior to their scheduled week. Provide feedback on summary of readings, proposed materials, and advice on wording questions to stimulate the best possible student interactions.

3. Upload finalized materials to Voice Thread and set up any preferred settings 1 week in advance of the teaching module.

4. Copy the embed code from Voice Thread and paste it into the HTML window in your BlackBoard course (alternatively, provide a link to the Voice Thread for your students to access).

5. Monitor the interactions—letting the DL Group lead, while remaining an engaged backup.

6. Ask group to provide written reflection after the activity.