Commenting in an Asynchronous Conversation

Title of Presentation:

Over the next several days, we'll continue the conversation that we started in our last Socratic circle online. Use this handout to script any comments that you plan to add to our digital discussion. Remember that scripting comments will help you post ideas that are easy to understand. Also remember that if you plan to add text comments, you should proofread for spelling and grammar errors.

Starter Comments

Sometimes you will add new content (threads, images, quotes, video) to an asynchronous conversation. When you do, it is important to include a starter comment to focus the thinking of other participants.

The following sentence stems will help you structure starter comments for new content that you add to our asynchronous conversation.

- What do you notice about this _____ titled _____ and showing _____?
- This _____ really resonates with me because _____. It makes me think _____. Does anyone else feel the same way?
- When we were talking about this _____ in our classroom conversation, it made me feel _____. How did it make you feel?

Kicker Comments

Sometimes, you will find that you are the first person to add comments to content added by someone else in our asynchronous conversation—or you might have a completely original idea that no one else has brought up yet. These types of comments are called kicker comments because they "kick off" a new strand of conversation. When making a kicker comment, it is important to remember to respond to any questions asked by the user who posted the original content. It is also important to finish kicker comments with interesting questions that will encourage other viewers to speak up.

The following sentence stems will help you structure interesting kicker comments.

- I noticed _____
- This was interesting to me because _____

Pushback Comments

Sometimes, you will want to respond to something that another participant said in our asynchronous conversation. You may agree and want to add more elaboration. You may disagree and want to challenge their thinking. These kinds of comments are called pushbacks. In a pushback comment, it is important to quote the person you are responding to so that other participants will know what caught your attention. It is also important to elaborate on your point of view and to disagree agreeably! Impolite people are never influential.

The following sentence stems will help you structure interesting pushback comments:

- _____ said _____.
- I (agree/disagree) with (him/her) because _____.
- I think that _____.
- I am wondering if _____.

Answering Comments

Sometimes, you will want to answer a question that another commenter asked in an asynchronous conversation. Their question may have been directed right to you, or it may have been asked to the group as a whole. Responding to questions is incredibly important because it lets others know that their ideas are valuable and interesting. Responding to questions moves asynchronous conversations forward and keeps them interesting.

The following sentence stems will help you structure interesting answering comments:

- _____ asked _____. This is a really interesting question, _____.
- I think _____.
- I also think _____.
- Do you agree with me on _____? Looking forward to your reply!