Tracking Your Videoconference

Use the following handout to guide your thinking before, during, and after your upcoming videoconference in order to be sure that connecting with digital guests is a meaningful learning experience that we can be proud of. Use the first set of questions to prepare your thinking before your videoconference even begins. Use the final set of questions to debrief after your videoconference is over.

Before Your Conference

1. List everything that you already know about your digital guests—their age, their experiences with our topic of study, the conditions in their state or country, ideas they have already shared about our topic of study, and so on.

2. Based on what you know about your digital guests, how do you think they are likely to feel about our topic of study?

3. Do you think you are likely to agree with your digital guests during your videoconference? What thoughts, ideas, and opinions are you likely to share?

4. Are you expecting there to be any sources of disagreement between your thinking and the thinking of your digital guests on the topic we are studying? What are they? Why are you likely to disagree?

5. What points do you really want to get across in the course of your digital conversation? What ideas connected to our topic of study are the most important for participants to wrestle with?

During Your Conference

1. What comments have your digital guests made that resonate with your own thinking about our topic of study? What is it about these comments that ring true for you?

2. Can you expand on the thoughts that you and your digital guests share in common? Do you have any additional facts or opinions that connect to the key ideas you agree on?

3. Have your digital guests made any comments that you don't agree with? What are they? Why don't you agree with them? Can you provide any facts or opinions to challenge their thinking?

4. What important ideas haven't been raised in your videoconference yet? Would raising these ideas add to the current conversation, or would they end up interrupting the good thinking that is already happening?

After Your Conference

1. How has your thinking about the topic we are studying in class changed now that you have had the chance to speak to your digital guests? Are there any new ideas you are dying to explore? Do you doubt any ideas that you once believed were true?

2. What caught you off guard or left you wondering during your conversation with your digital guests—either about the topic we have been studying or the people you were speaking to?

3. How would you explain any of the similarities between your thinking and the thinking of your digital guests? Why would they think the same way that you do about the topic we have been studying?

4. How would you explain any of the differences between your thinking and the thinking of your digital guests? What is it about their circumstances or experiences that led them to draw different conclusions about our topic of study than you?

5. Who would you like to speak to next about the topic we have been studying? Why would this be an interesting person or group to speak to? What questions would you try to answer in that conversation?