**‘Development of students’ argumentative abilities through discussion and analysis of information’**

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* The importance of argumentative skills in academic and real-world contexts.
* Introduce the concept of word maps and how they will be utilized in this presentation.

The importance of argumentative skills in both academic and real-world contexts. Effective argumentative skills are essential for navigating through the complexities of modern life, enabling us to communicate persuasively, critically analyze information, and make informed decisions. Whether in the classroom, workplace, or social settings, the ability to construct compelling arguments is a fundamental tool for success.

In the academic realm, argumentative skills are at the core of critical thinking and intellectual growth. Students are required to engage with various topics, evaluate evidence, and form coherent arguments to support their perspectives. Through this process, students not only expand their knowledge but also learn how to articulate their ideas in a logical and convincing manner. These skills extend beyond the classroom and are invaluable in any profession that demands problem-solving and decision-making.

The concept of "word maps" and how they can aid us in developing and enhancing our argumentative skills. Word maps are visual representations of the connections between words, concepts, and ideas. They help organize information and identify relationships, making it easier to present compelling arguments.

A powerful tool that can revolutionize the way we organize information, enhance our critical thinking skills, and elevate our ability to construct persuasive arguments. This tool is called "word maps."

Word maps are visual representations that help us organize and understand the relationships between different concepts or words. Just like a map guides us through unfamiliar terrain, a word map guides us through the intricate landscape of ideas and information. It offers a bird's-eye view of the connections between various elements, allowing us to see the big picture while still appreciating the details.

Imagine you are studying a complex topic with multiple subtopics, interrelated concepts, and various supporting evidence. When you jot down notes or create a traditional outline, it may become challenging to see how all the pieces fit together. However, with a word map, you can visually link these elements, creating a cohesive web of knowledge.

Word maps encourage us to think both analytically and creatively. They invite us to explore the associations between different ideas, revealing patterns, and insights that might otherwise remain hidden. It becomes easier to grasp the overall structure of a topic and understand how each piece contributes to the larger puzzle. This improved comprehension leads to a deeper understanding of the subject matter, which is particularly beneficial for academic learning.

Constructing a persuasive argument requires a clear understanding of the various components of our position and how they relate to each other. With a word map, we can carefully plot out our main points, evidence, and counterarguments, visually displaying their connections. This process allows us to spot any weaknesses in our reasoning and address them effectively.

Furthermore, word maps empower us to present our arguments more coherently and convincingly. When we can see the logical flow of our ideas, we can articulate them more naturally, making it easier for others to follow our line of thinking.

**The Role of Discussions**

* The significance of open discussions in developing argumentative skills.
* Discussions allow students to share and challenge ideas, encouraging them to defend their viewpoints with evidence.

Mention that discussions provide a platform to analyze information from diverse perspectives, leading to better argumentative skills.

One of the key advantages of engaging in group discussions is that they allow students to share and challenge ideas openly. When we present our perspectives in a group setting, we are encouraged to think critically and articulate our thoughts more coherently. We become aware of the strengths and weaknesses of our arguments, and as we interact with our peers, we learn to listen actively, appreciate differing viewpoints, and respond thoughtfully. Through this process, we not only gain confidence in expressing ourselves but also learn to be receptive to constructive criticism.

**Analyzing Information**

* The process of analyzing information using word maps.
* How students can break down complex arguments or articles into key ideas and supporting evidence.
* A word map representing the analysis of an argumentative article.

Analyzing information using word maps is a powerful technique that helps students break down complex arguments or articles into key ideas and supporting evidence, providing a visual representation of the relationships between various concepts. Word maps, also known as concept maps or mind maps, are graphic organizers that organize information in a hierarchical and interconnected manner, making it easier to understand, remember, and analyze the content.

Here is a step-by-step process to analyze information using word maps:

Step 1: Read and Understand the Text Before creating a word map, thoroughly read and comprehend the argumentative article. Identify the main thesis or central argument, as well as the supporting points and evidence presented by the author.

Step 2: Identify Key Ideas In the word map, start by writing the central idea or thesis in the center of the page. From there, identify the main ideas or sub-arguments presented in the article. These key ideas should be connected to the central idea with lines or branches.

Step 3: Add Supporting Evidence For each key idea, include the relevant supporting evidence provided in the article. This could be specific examples, data, quotes, or references that the author uses to bolster their argument. Connect the evidence to the corresponding key idea with additional branches.

Step 4: Make Connections Look for relationships and connections between different ideas in the article. If there are similarities or contrasts between certain concepts, illustrate these connections by linking the appropriate elements in the word map.

Step 5: Use Visual Elements To enhance the word map's clarity and visual appeal, consider using color coding, icons, or different font styles to represent different types of information. Visual elements help to distinguish between key ideas, evidence, and connections, making it easier to interpret the word map.

Here an example of a word map representing the analysis of an argumentative article about the benefits of renewable energy:

(Example Word Map)

**Sustainable Resource**

**Wind Power**

**No Greenhouse Gases**

**Solar Power**

**Regenerates Naturally**

**Solar Power**

**Decreases Dependence on Fossil Fuels**

**Endless Source of Energy**

**Reduces Carbon Emissions**

**Renewable Energy**

In this example, the word map provides a concise and organized overview of the article's main points and the evidence used to support them. By visually representing the relationships between different concepts, word maps enable students to grasp complex arguments more easily and facilitate a deeper understanding of the content.

**Classroom Application**

* How teachers can incorporate word maps in classroom activities to foster argumentative development.
* Using word maps during discussions, debates, essay planning, and research activities.
* Provide feedback and guidance on students' word maps to enhance their argumentative skills.

Here's how teachers can incorporate word maps in various classroom activities to enhance students' argumentative skills:

**Discussions and Debates:** Before engaging in discussions or debates, encourage students to create word maps on the topic of interest. By visually mapping out their ideas, students can analyze the relationships between different arguments and strengthen their ability to construct coherent and well-structured arguments during the discussion or debate.

**Essay Planning:** When assigning essays, have students create word maps as part of their pre-writing process. The word map should include the main thesis statement, supporting arguments, and relevant evidence. This will enable students to see the overall structure of their essay, ensuring that their arguments flow logically and coherently throughout the piece. It also helps them identify any gaps in their argumentation and address them beforehand.

**Research Activities:** Before students embark on a research project, encourage them to create a word map that outlines their research questions, potential sources, and main arguments they intend to make. As they conduct their research, they can add new information and refine their arguments within the word map. This practice enhances critical thinking and helps students synthesize information effectively, leading to stronger argumentative skills in their final research presentations or papers.

**Peer Review:** Incorporate peer review sessions where students exchange their word maps and provide feedback to one another. Peer reviews foster collaboration, critical thinking, and communication skills. Students can offer fresh perspectives, challenge weak arguments, and suggest improvements. Encourage a constructive and respectful atmosphere during these sessions, where students can openly discuss ideas and learn from each other.

**Presentations:** Encourage students to use their word maps as visual aids during presentations. This reinforces the connection between the visual organization of their ideas and their oral argumentation. Word maps serve as reminders of the main points they want to convey, ensuring they stay on track and deliver convincing arguments.

By integrating word maps into classroom activities, teachers can enhance students' argumentative development, critical thinking, and communication skills. These visual tools empower students to think more deeply about their arguments, consider multiple perspectives, and present their ideas in a compelling and coherent manner.