Arguing About Theory

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Course Learning Objectives

• Define communication.
• Define communication theory.
• Articulate the usefulness of theory in both academic and professional lives.
• Develop and refine scholarly writing and research skills.

The HIP(ness) of Comm Theory

• Writing-Intensive Course
  • Students produce a variety of writing assignments to refine their writing skills within the discipline.
  • Students receive feedback to improve and refine their writing in a style particular to Communication discipline.
  • Assignments help students meet each SLO of the course.

The Argument of Writing

• Position Papers about theory are assigned to encourage students to learn, articulate, and advocate for various theories.
  • For five contexts of communication discussed in course, students select one theory that best explains that particular context.
  • Students develop 3-4 arguments advocating for why the theory they chose best explains the context.
  • Position papers allow students to experience greater learning gains about Communication Theory.

Long-Term Learning Goals

• Position papers prepare students for exams by providing them opportunity to analyze multiple theories.
• Position papers provide students opportunity to explore the scholarly side of the communication discipline.
• Position papers also provide opportunity to hone the important skill of argument.
• Position papers prepare students for success in Senior Seminar in Communication Studies and beyond.

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