Curriculum Design Pattern

——

Global Learning by Design

Name of pattern	**Icebreaker 4 - Movie Truth**
Quick look	Icebreaker 4 - Movie Truth uses a short clip from a movie or Youtube to highlight a topic or subject matter before introducing and unpacking the theory.
Rationale	The ice breaker provides an opportunity to get students engaged with the topic and with each other in a face-to-face environment.
Learners/Context	Suitable for all courses at the start of the semester or when introducing a new topic in the course.
Related patterns	None.
Related category	Engagement.
Alignment	The activity stimulates thinking about a topic as a lead-in to exploring the subject matter / theory.

Instructions/Process

Prior to class:

— Research an appropriate film clip linked to the subject matter being introduced and that can stimulate student engagement and discussion. For example: "Ben Stein as Economics Teacher in Ferris Bueller's Day Off" video clip may be suitable for introducing topics related to tariffs or as a humorous general introduction to the semester (see Resources/Technology for link).

— Develop some questions or issues related to the video to help engage and facilitate discussion with students.

At the beginning of class:

Begin the class by displaying the chosen stimuli and:

— Ask students to give their thoughts and views on what they think are the main takeaway points.

— Raise an issue, question or problem linked to the stimuli.

Focus on the connection between the stimuli and the topic/theory that the students will be exploring.

Areas to focus on in class discussion may include, for example:

— What is the topic question/issue/problem trying to achieve?

— Why is the topic/question/issue/problem interesting, provocative or controversial?

— Who does it affect? Does the topic/question/issue/ problem directly and/or indirectly affect you?

— Where do you stand on this topic, issue, problem or topic? (Note: Be prepared to deal with 'fence sitting'.)

— If appropriate, conduct a straw poll/vote to conclude the discussion.

Following discussion, as a lead-in to the subject matter/theory - ask 'What next?', or 'What is the challenge?'

Conditions

Availability of a variety of media to stimulate discussion.

Projector/screen to display content.

Resources/Technology

Note: Resources and technology requirements will depend on the stimuli chosen to illustrate the topic.

Contact your Academic Development Group and/or Library Liaison for support on accessing suitable audio visual resources.