

Lesson Focus: Planning a TOK essay on Kialo		
Learning Objectives		Differentiation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use a Kialo discussion to structure a TOK essay. Deconstruct a TOK essay into claims, counterclaims, and examples. Plan a clear and coherent argument on an area of knowledge, supported by examples. Evaluate different points of view. 		<p>Support: Allow students to familiarise themselves with the sample essay sections before the session.</p> <p>Extend: Allow students to choose their own area of knowledge to research in step 3.</p>
Related Knowledge Questions	Related TOK Exhibition Prompts	Links with Approaches to Learning (ATL)
<p>How can we decide between the judgments of experts if they disagree with each other?</p> <p>What responsibilities rest on the knower as a result of their knowledge?</p> <p>What are the advantages and disadvantages of requiring that all knowledge is verified by a group?</p> <p>Are there responsibilities that necessarily come with knowing something or knowing how to do something?</p>	<p>7. What are the implications of having, or not having, knowledge?</p> <p>10. What challenges are raised by the dissemination and/or communication of knowledge?</p> <p>14. Does some knowledge belong only to particular communities of knowers?</p> <p>22. What role do experts play in influencing our consumption or acquisition of knowledge?</p> <p>29. Who owns knowledge?</p>	<p>Thinking Skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Critical Thinking: Analyze and evaluate arguments and counterarguments. Critical Thinking: Analyze and evaluate suitable examples. <p>Research Skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information Literacy: Locate, analyze, and synthesize information from various sources. <p>Communication Skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Articulating Ideas: Plan a clear and coherent argument.
Preparation		
<p>You will need to clone the following Kialo discussions and share them with students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How to plan a TOK essay on Kialo Edu: Do we need custodians of knowledge? (Step 1) How to plan a TOK essay on Kialo Edu: Do we need custodians of knowledge? (Step 2 and 3) <p>There is a TOK Essay Checklist for you to reference.</p>		

Step 1: Deconstructing an existing TOK essay

- Share your clone of the Kialo discussion [How to plan a TOK essay on Kialo Edu: Do we need custodians of knowledge? \(Step 1\)](#) or display it on the screen.
- Guide students through the claims, examining how they present an argument in favor of custodians of artistic knowledge.
- Show students how linked sources are collated in the [Sources](#) sidebar for easy reference when writing the essay.
- Share the finished version of the first section of the essay with students and ask them to compare it to the Kialo essay plan.
 - This includes the essay introduction for reference.
 - Clarify with students that the purpose of the lesson is to focus on constructing arguments, rather than the essay introduction.
- Use these questions about the Kialo discussion to guide students' comparisons:
 - Where is the prescribed title displayed?
 - What information is presented in the thesis?
 - How does the claim structure support building a clear and coherent argument?
 - How have examples been used to support points?

Step 2: Guided Practice

- Share the TOK essay assessment instrument with students (TOK Guide 2022, p. 48).
 - Examine the criteria for "Excellent 9–10."
 - Ask students whether they would award the first section of the essay a 9–10 grade.
 - Discuss that it doesn't yet show "clear awareness and evaluation of different points of view."
- Explain that we now need to evaluate an alternative viewpoint.
- Show students the next section (section 2) of the sample essay on the Vienna Secession, which evaluates a different point of view.
- Guide students' comprehension with these questions:
 - Who is the custodian in this example?
 - How did they aim to protect and monitor Viennese artistic knowledge at the time?
 - How did notable artists react?
 - How does this demonstrate the potential negative impact of custodians of art?
 - What were the actual consequences of the Kunstlerhaus's actions?
- Once students are familiar with the topic, discuss how section 2 of the essay provides a counterargument to the claim: [In the arts, custodians of knowledge traditionally serve an important role in preserving and providing art for the masses.](#)
- Ask students to identify the main counterargument e.g., In artistic communities, institutions that act as custodians for artistic knowledge can be seen as restrictive.
- Model how to add this to the discussion as a con. You can use your cloned discussion from step 1.
- Guide students to add further pros and cons to build the counterargument, based on the essay.
- Encourage students to link claims to sources as appropriate.

- A completed example can be found [here](#).

Step 3: Independent Practice

- For this section, divide students into groups and provide them with their own copy of [How to plan a TOK essay on Kialo Edu: Do we need custodians of knowledge? \(Step 2 and 3\)](#).
 - You may wish to use [Small Group Mode](#).
- Ask students to identify what else needs to be added to the essay in order to achieve a 9–10 grade.
 - Discuss that it currently only refers to one area of knowledge.
- Explain to students that they will now research arguments on custodians of knowledge in the natural sciences.
 - Divide students into groups and provide them with time to conduct their research.
 - Then, they should add an argument and counterargument on the natural sciences to their own copy of the discussion.
 - This should start directly underneath the thesis, forming a new branch of the discussion.
 - Encourage students to link claims to sources as appropriate.
 - You can use [Grading and Feedback](#) to guide/assess students' contributions in real-time or after the session.

Reflection Activity

- Explain to students that the final important part of their TOK essay is the conclusion.
 - The conclusion should tie all the arguments together and provide a definitive response to the prescribed title.
- Share the success criteria for an effective conclusion with students:
 - Demonstrate critical thinking in explaining what you've learnt.
 - Evaluate the main arguments in response to the prescribed title.
 - Explain the implications of your response.
 - Refer to any unresolved questions or limitations.
- Working in the same groups, students should review the claims in their Kialo discussions to write a short conclusion that responds to the prescribed title.