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Organizing a Class Discussion

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Organizing a Class Discussion

(developed for MGMT 400 Organization Theory)

Due date: TBA

Rationale for this assignment. In MGMT 400 Organization Theory, I use group-led discussions to promote class conversations about the course topics. Students are organized into teams, and then teams are assigned to facilitate a discussion on topics from our textbook. As part of that task, students are also responsible for identifying the major themes in their section of the textbook, developing a set of discussion questions to use during class, and producing a one-page summary of their part of the textbook. Students are often challenged and intimidated by this task, and are afraid to attempt to identify themes; they are also not always effective in generating good discussion questions that other students will respond to. This assignment proposes to have students use generative AI tools like ChatGPT to help them identify major themes in the text and effective discussion questions.

Purpose: A common professional activity is to review large documents in preparation for discussions and meetings. Part of this process is the identification of major themes in those documents and the creation of discussion questions to help you understand them better.

The purpose of this assignment is to help you determine the major concepts and themes from the portion of the textbook that you are responsible for discussing, and to develop a range of discussion questions that you can use to facilitate that discussion. You will also become familiar with summarizing a text for distribution to others.

- *Skills:*
 - Students will demonstrate the ability to use generative AI tools to help identify the major themes in a work of text.
 - Students will demonstrate the ability to use generative AI tools to help summarize a work of text for discussion participants.
 - Students will demonstrate the ability to use generative AI tools to create a variety of discussion questions that will be used to facilitate class discussion on a work of text.
- *Knowledge:*
 - This assignment will help you develop an understanding of a text.
 - This assignment will also help you develop the ability to facilitate a discussion.

Tasks:

- *Familiarize yourself with generative AI tools.* Prior to the day of discussion, you should work with a generative AI tool to familiarize yourself with the process of identifying insights about the text you want to use.
 - You will likely find that effective use of an AI tool requires an interactive process...you may need to have a “conversation” with the tool to get the best

output. You have to ask the AI tool questions to create any output from the system.

- Your instructor may also have a particular tool that you should use, or you may have to find your own. AI tools that will be effective for this assignment include ChatPDF, TLDR, and Bing (these will allow you to interact with your text and ask the tool questions about it).
- *Use the generative AI tool.* Using the AI tool, interact with it to help you understand the text better. You may not get ideal results on initial use of the AI tool...they are interactive tools, so you must ask it questions to develop the most effective outputs; these questions are called “prompts”. You should document the prompts that you use to generate your output (your instructor may want you to turn those in after the discussion).
 - *Identify major themes.*
 - *Identify discussion questions.*
- *Create one-page summary.* Based on the AI’s output, create a one-page summary that includes the information that you found interacting with the AI.
- *Use summary document to facilitate discussion.* Distribute your one-page summary in class and use it and the discussion questions you developed with the AI tool to facilitate class discussion.