

Critical Thinking and Readings in Social Science

Winter Semester, 2022

Project- Final Submission

In your project work you now need to prepare a short audio summary of the elaborate discussion you have developed on the Kialo platform. This will be the concluding submission for the SSH 101 project, and we want you to wear a more creative hat now and present the arguments in the form of a public conversation or as it is known in the digital realm **‘audio podcast’**.

As discussed in our class and tutorials, the Kialo exercise is to recognise that critical thinking also means that we are able to communicate our ideas to those who do not share our subjective viewpoints. For this purpose, podcasting is an ideal medium since being an audio format it keeps the focus on different views and concepts rather than visual images which tend to focus on specific individuals. So let’s set up a *podcast* style discussion, not some kind of *Newshour* style ‘big fight’ we often see on Indian television.

Radio or online *podcasting* is a refreshing approach where rather than winning, the emphasis is often on explaining, and also gradual acceptance to diverse subjective views. One of the best podcasts that you can find is called ‘In our Time’ on the BBC, which comes with an associated Reading List much like your Kialo page.

You may listen to some of their episodes here, this one about a subject which has a very contemporary relevance in Delhi these days: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/b084zk6z>

In the production, please ensure to use a variety of verbal cues and markers that STOP arguments and also help speakers complete and evaluate arguments. Some speakers may deliberately use guarding and assuring terms while others can make regulations, including those using fallacies which in turn can then be responded to by other speakers.

In short, try and put all our learnings through this course from Walter Sinnott-Armstrong’s into practice here.

Here's what you need to do

- Take up the Kialo page that you have been debating over in your Kialo pages.
- Divide your group into a host, and multiple experts who instead of simply contradicting the opponents, try to expand the understanding by placing new evidence forward.
- The material for the podcast is already in place. You need to simply reproduce them in the form of a conversation, with one host and some (imaginary) academic experts delving on the issue. All experts need to be introduced as academics and try to think which field the particular expert is coming from and what kind of subjective viewpoints they are likely to have to suit the nature of their concepts and arguments.
- Please avoid making it a mechanical reading (or recitation) of what you've written in Kialo. Think of the argument as happening in real-time face-to-face conversation, and feel free to throw in some fallacies, which are again corrected in the course of the discussion.
- Remember, the use of certain terms can act as facilitators in making your arguments stronger or weaker as per requirement (Hint: Assuring, Guarding, Evaluative, Discounting).
- Arguments can become passionate, often heated. But as social science students you have been trained to make the best use of arguments so try and use that training in *enacting your* Kialo page debates.
- **It is OKAY if you don't cover each and every entry of your Kialo page; your argument should be clearly placed and that is the prime requirement of the exercise.**

Group suggestions

- Each group member should ideally participate equally in the debate. Some of you could, of course, take the lead in initiating certain points. But it is team-work and should involve collective efforts, needless to add there is no need to compete with each other.
- Finally, try and enjoy this exercise and if you wish you can also open this Kialo page to the world (only once you are done with the grading).

Good luck!