

Small group discussion 1

Un-Discipline Yourself
By Francis J. Gavin

Appoint a recorder to track participation and record group responses.

Keep in mind the key goal here is meaningful discussion, not completing a worksheet. the worksheet is only evidence of the discussion.

**Take ten minutes and discuss, go around the group and discuss the article generally. What stands out to you, what do you find interesting or controversial? Do you agree with the argument made by the author?
Then answer question 1.**

2. What does the author see as the pros and cons of discipline specialization? What is his argument in this regard? Do you agree with his position?

3. Assess the following statement from the author's perspective. Do you agree with his position? Why or why not?

(With apologies to Spiderman)

With [a] great [amount of] education comes great responsibility?

**4. Does the IB program
at THS encourage the
approach to knowledge
the author advocates?**

Explain.

5. Here are last year's prescribed topics. If you had to use this document in an essay, to which do you think it best applies? Explain.

1. "It is only knowledge produced with difficulty that we truly value." To what extent do you agree with this statement?
2. "Facts are needed to establish theories but theories are needed to make sense of facts." Discuss this statement with reference to two areas of knowledge.
3. Should key events in the historical development of areas of knowledge always be judged by the standards of their time?
4. "In the production of knowledge, traditions of areas of knowledge offer correctives for ways of knowing." To what extent do you agree with this statement?
5. Given access to the same facts, how is it possible that there can be disagreement between experts in a discipline? Develop your answer with reference to two areas of knowledge.
6. "Humans are pattern-seeking animals and we are adept at finding patterns whether they exist or not". Discuss knowledge questions raised by this idea in two areas of knowledge.