

Observations based on the PE Planning template

- Contrasting events in history do not count as contrasting perspectives within a discipline.
- Remember this topic deals with the production of knowledge by people in the field. The best examples were of debates within disciplines.
- Find real contrasting perspectives not artificial ones - for example - historians differ over the causes of WWI (real) v. whether primary v. secondary sources are better. (not a real disagreement)
- You should be able to find examples of people within the field who actually disagree
- In history, distinguish between the discipline and what the discipline studies. For example, historians disagree over what motivated the founders to write the Constitution (self interest v. common good)(this is a contrasting perspective within the discipline of history) v. Republicans and Democrats differ in the election of 1964 (not a contrasting perspective within the discipline of history)
- Another example of the above point - How native peoples and colonizers saw the new world differently (no a contrasting perspective within the discipline of history) v. Did the European colonizers actions with native peoples amount to genocide? (a topic which generates contrasting perspectives within the discipline of history.)
- Avoid overly simple examples. If you don't have evidence of disciplinary disagreement, don't use the example.
- In literature, disagreement within the discipline would be over how works of literature should be interpreted, not over (for example) whether Anne Frank's perspective or the Nazi perspective was correct.
- Remember that you can argue that in some cases the topic is wrong. If you do, define what constitutes an unhealthy perspective and provide examples (Holocaust denial, climate denial)
- Be careful not to confuse disagreement between people inside v. outside of a discipline with disagreement within a discipline. The creationism/evolution controversy is an external controversy - biologists do not accept creationism as science and thus this debate does not take place within the discipline. (this could be a possible counter example)
- Ethical perspective make a good example of how debate in a discipline can be productive. Ethics is not necessarily the search for the right answer, but the broadening of our horizons by the ability to see many aspects of the same problem.
- Support your arguments with good quality sources. Avoid IB help sites.
- This class is about exploring how we know what we know. As such this paper should be viewed as an exploration of ideas and how these ideas relate to knowledge. papers approached in this way will be a) easier to write, and b) better.