

Disagreement Project

The goal of this project is to increase students' ability to engage in productive dialogue with a person who disagrees with them about something important.

Should we ban school coffee?
Should we recycle?
Should we eat more vegetables?
Is it OK to lie?
Should we have Universal Healthcare?
Should we change the minimum wage?
Should schools have Valedictorians?
Should students do community service?
Should we allow Hate Speech?
Should we have single sex schools?
Should we go back to school in any form with COVID-19?
Should we wear masks in public?
Do we need stricter gun laws?
Should we ban Juuling?
Should DACA be ended?
Is Social Media good for Democracy?
Should the voting age be lowered?

Should college athletes be paid?
Should the death penalty be abolished?
Should there be a fee on plastic bags?
Should college tuition be free?
Should parents monitor their kids internet use?
Should everyone get a trophy?
Are Zoos ethical?
Should women have to register for the draft?
Should we celebrate Columbus day?
Should we take down Confederate symbols?
Should we remove names e.g. Washington Redskins that are offensive to Native peoples?
Should we replace the Electoral College?
Should there be a Wealth tax?
Should we have net neutrality?
Should police wear body cameras?
Should we defund the police?
Should we fund a border wall?
Should we regulate Google?
Should we regulate violent video games?

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PART I: Find a partner and record a conversation

1. Find a person who disagrees with you about an issue or value that you genuinely care about.
2. Engage in a dialogue with this person that explores your disagreement. **In particular, you should try to find out their top 3 reasons for their view.**
3. Your conversation can be any length as long as it's sufficient to explore the relevant arguments and issues. But, as a rule of thumb, it should **at a minimum** be about 10-15 minutes. Again, it can also be much longer.
4. Here's a key point. Record this conversation or at least the part of it where you discuss your different views. You can record the audio using your phone, or Zoom's record function, or an application like Loom (www.loom.com).

How We Argue: Intellectual Charity

- **Humility:** Some of the things I believe could be (probably are) wrong, and other people know valuable things that I do not.
- **Truth-seeking:** (All else being equal) It is helpful to have my mistaken beliefs corrected.
- **Open-mindedness:** Other people's arguments against my beliefs are one way I can find out that some of my beliefs are mistaken and correct them. Even when they do not show I am mistaken, those arguments can give me insights I lack.

Recorded conversations



PART 2: Write up your partner's argument

1. After your conversation, you should write up the most charitable possible interpretation of your partner's arguments and position. This can vary in length, depending on what your partner's arguments are. But it should probably be about 150 words or so.
2. You should show your written interpretation of your partner's argument to this person and he/she should send an email confirming that your interpretation is accurate. Please ask him/her to email Ms. E. to confirm.

Zoos are ethical.

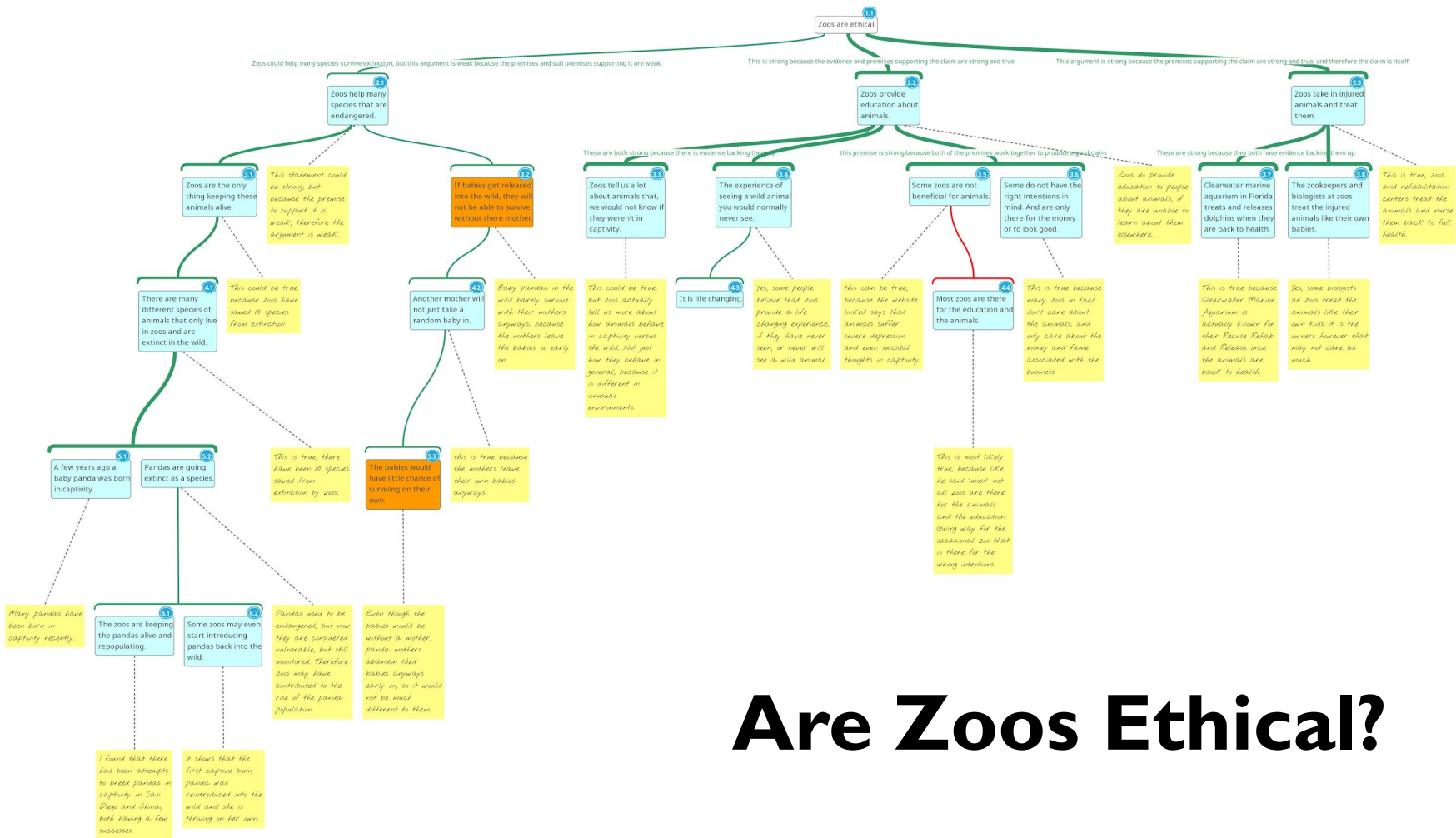
The first reason I believe that zoos are ethical is that zoos take in many species that are going extinct or are endangered, zoos help the animals repopulate. There are about 39 different species of animals that live in zoos only, and cannot be repopulated back into the wild, therefore the zoos are keeping that species alive. If the babies are going to be released in the wild, how will they learn to survive. Is it an instinct? Other mothers will not just take in babies in the wild, so can they be released? We receive education by watching or observing these animals first hand and in person. Zoos tell us a lot about a certain animal that we would never learn if they were not in captivity. That experience of seeing a wild animal right in front of your eyes, is a once in a lifetime opportunity that you will never forget. Some zoos also take in injured animals and treat them there, like the zoo/aquarium in Clearwater Florida. A few years ago a panda had a baby cub in a zoo in the United States. Since pandas are going extinct or are endangered, the baby panda born in captivity was a huge success and accomplishment, that means one more panda in the world, therefore raising the population. Then in the future maybe we could start reintroducing the pandas into the wild. Most zoos are ethical and have biologists there that treat the animals like their own kids, and these are the zoos that are education oriented. Yes some zoos do not have the right intentions in mind for the animals, but 90% of the zoos are there to educate people and help the animals, that is why I think zoos are ethical.

PART 3: Map your partner's argument

Once your partner has confirmed that you have accurately represented his/her argument(s), you should then map their argument(s) with MindMup. If his/her arguments are complex, then you should map each separate argument on a separate map. Submit your map of your partner's argument(s) to your teacher. Your teacher will evaluate the quality of your map to see whether you have followed the conventions of argument mapping (especially the Reason Rule), and whether you have accurately represented your partner's arguments in the map, i.e. your map accurately captures the points your partner was making.

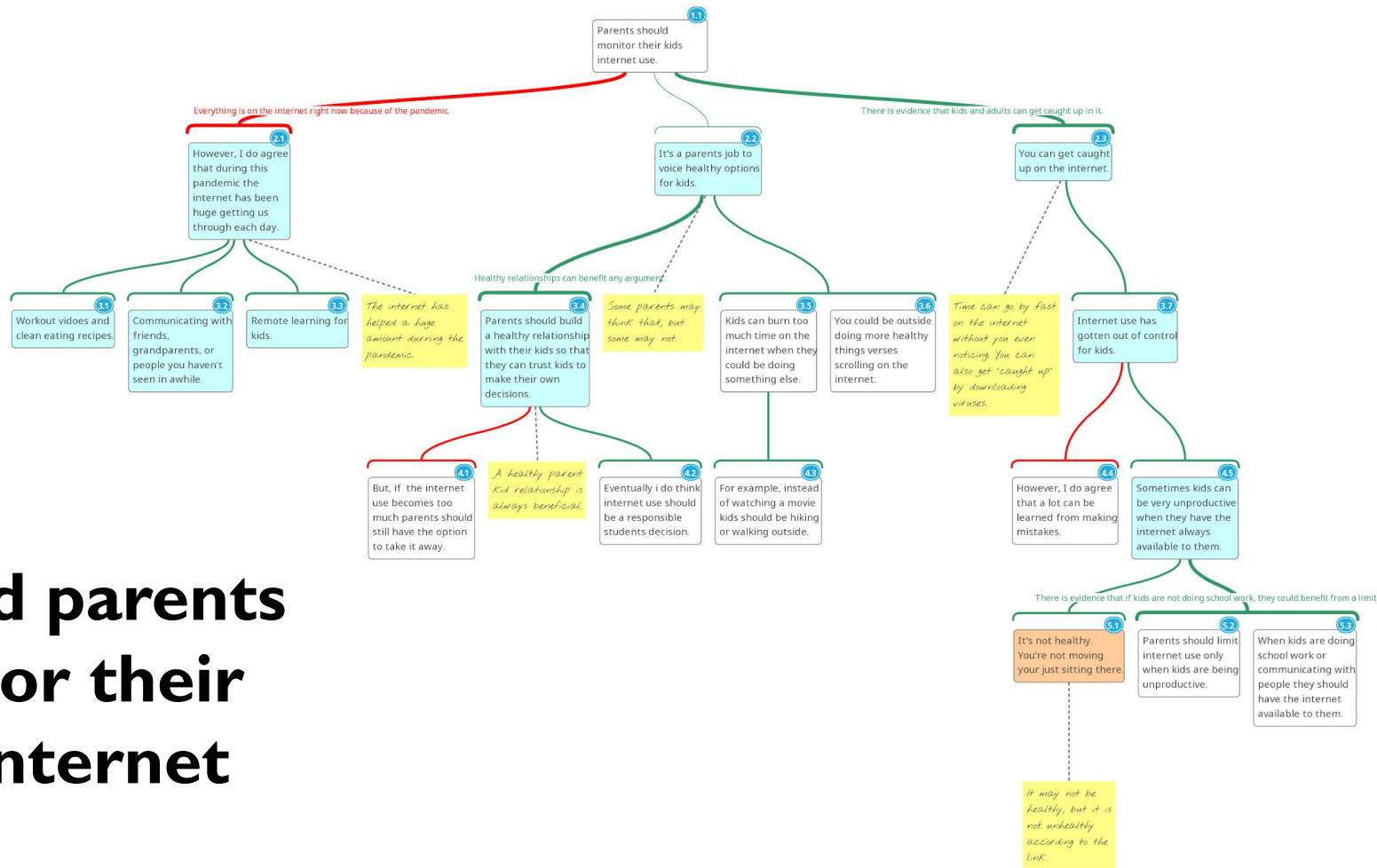
PART 4: Evaluate your partner's argument and prepare to share out

You should then evaluate your partner's arguments. Your evaluation should be as rigorous as possible while being fair and charitable to your conversation partner. Evaluate the argument directly on the MindMup map, using the tools of MindMup (i.e., changing colors of premises, attaching notes, evaluating and labeling inferences).

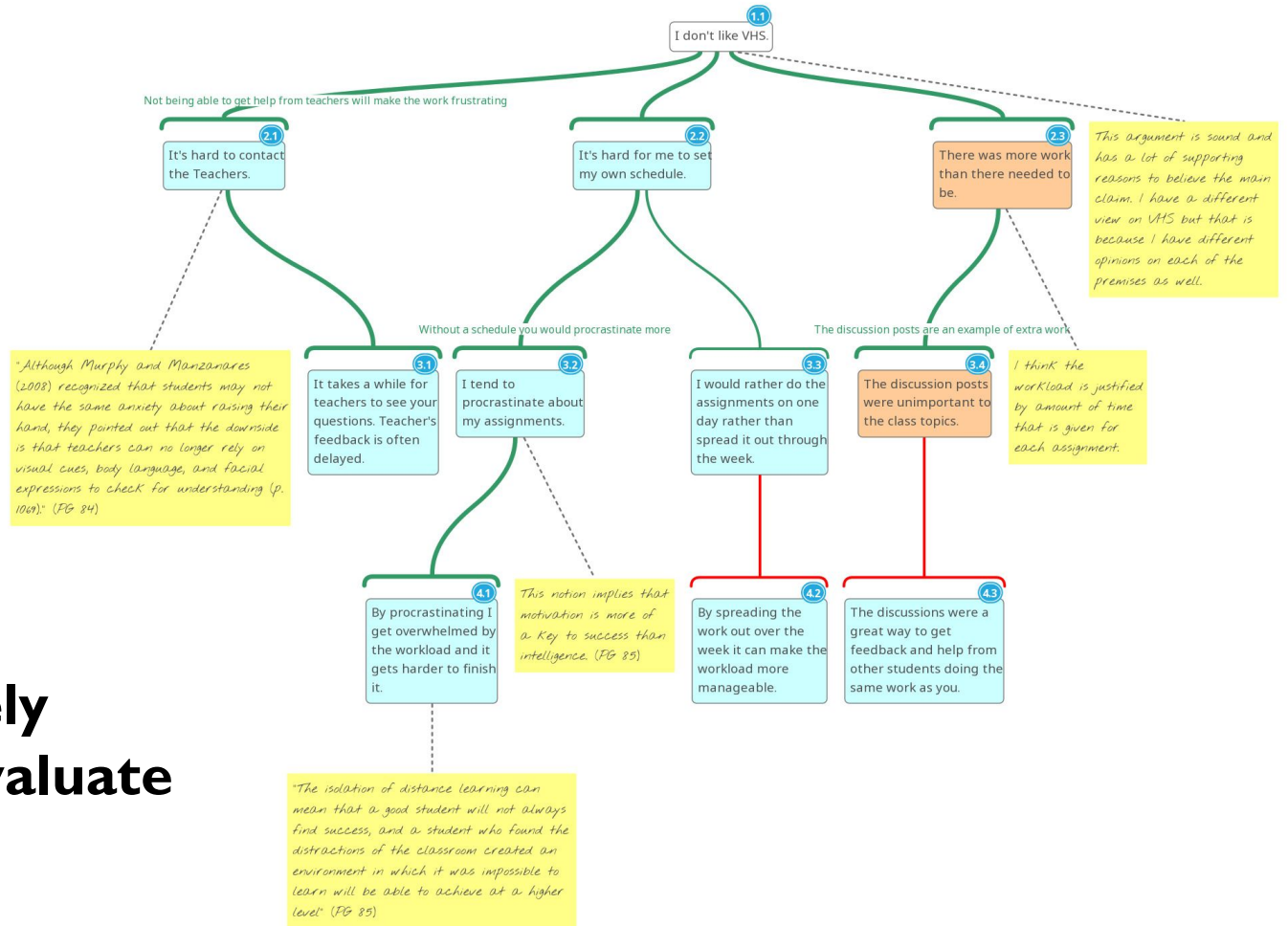


Are Zoos Ethical?

Should parents monitor their kids' internet use?

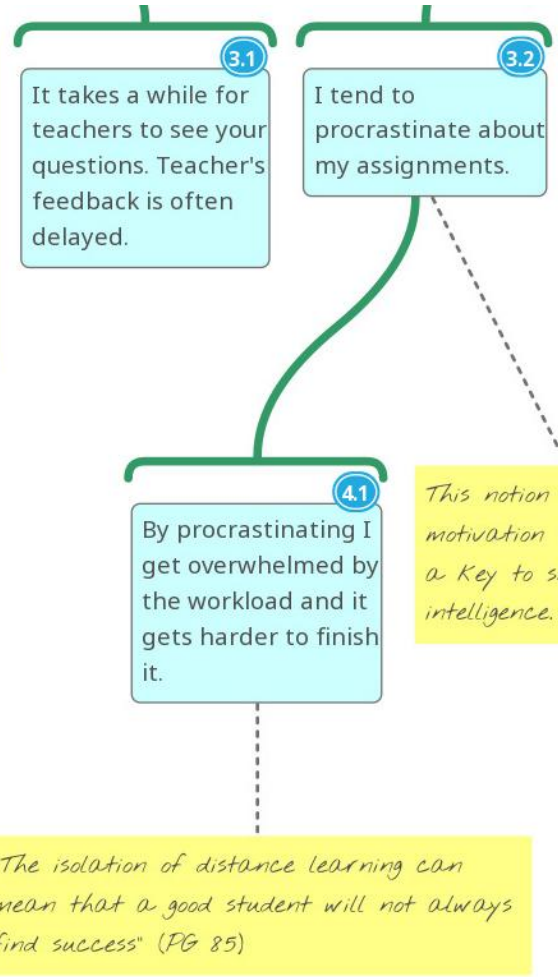


Can I accurately represent & evaluate the argument?



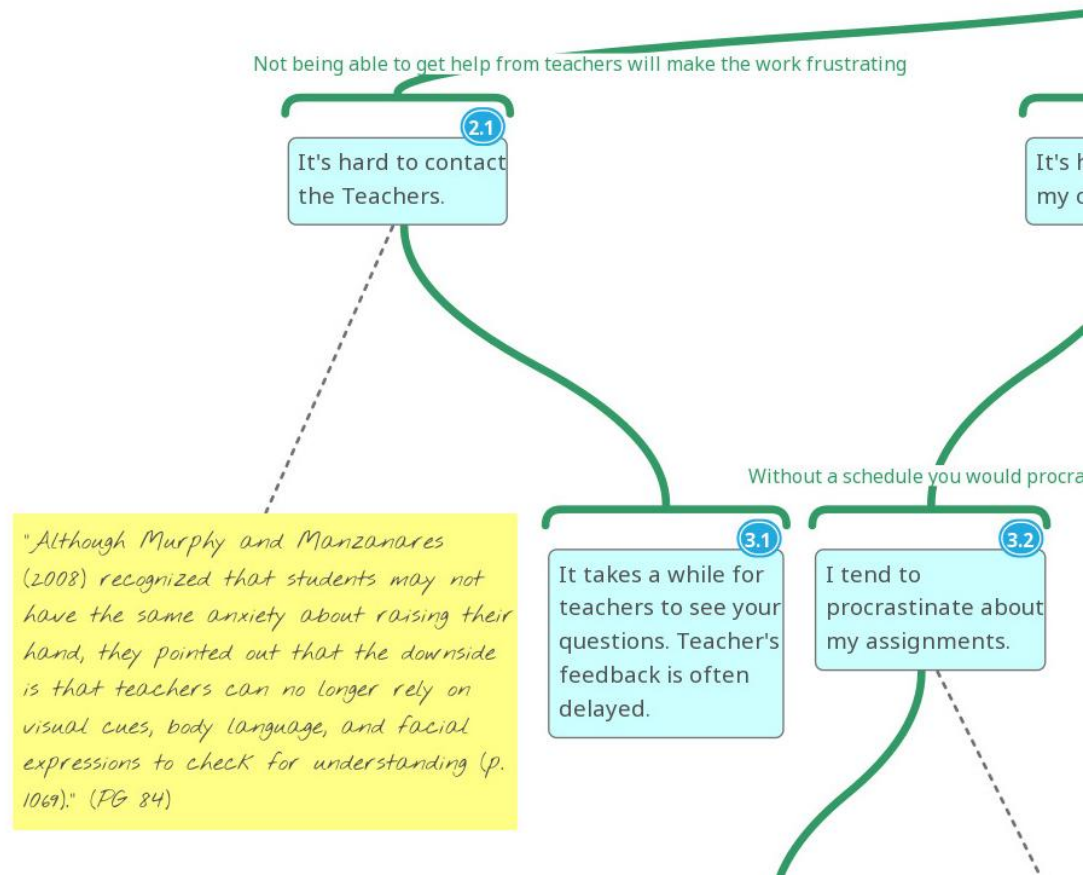
Are the premises true?

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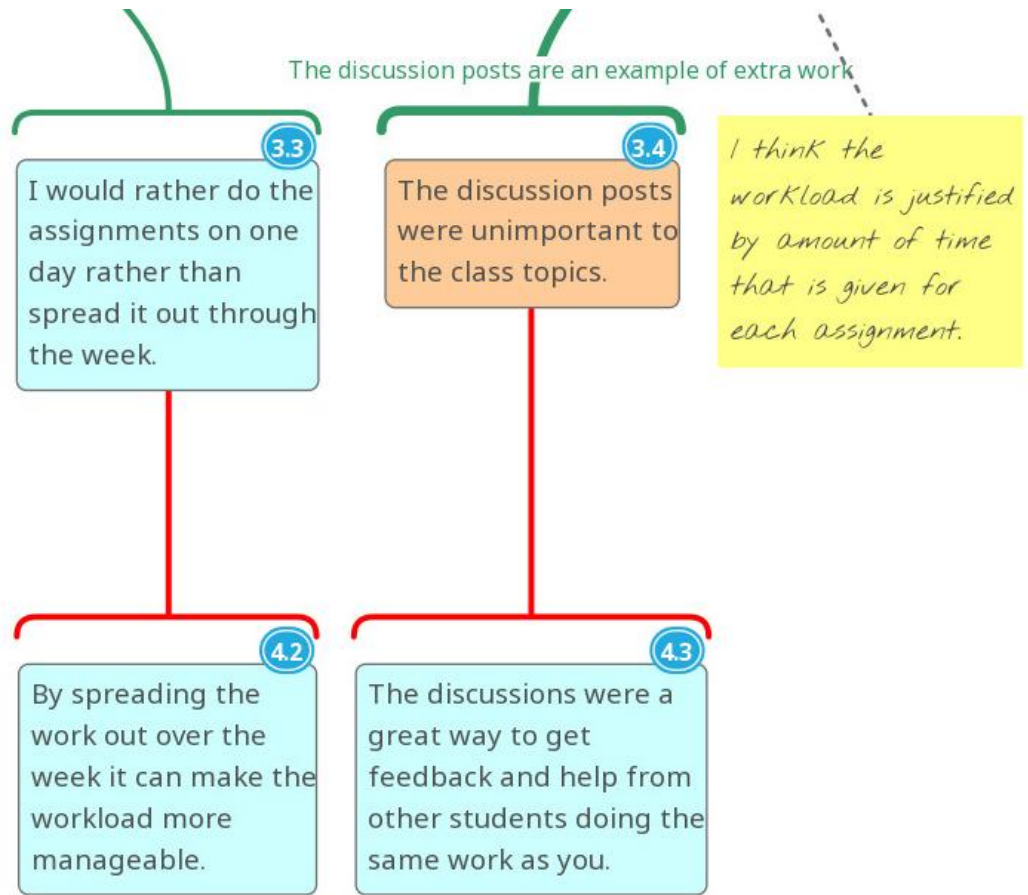


"The isolation of distance learning can mean that a good student will not always find success" (FG 85)

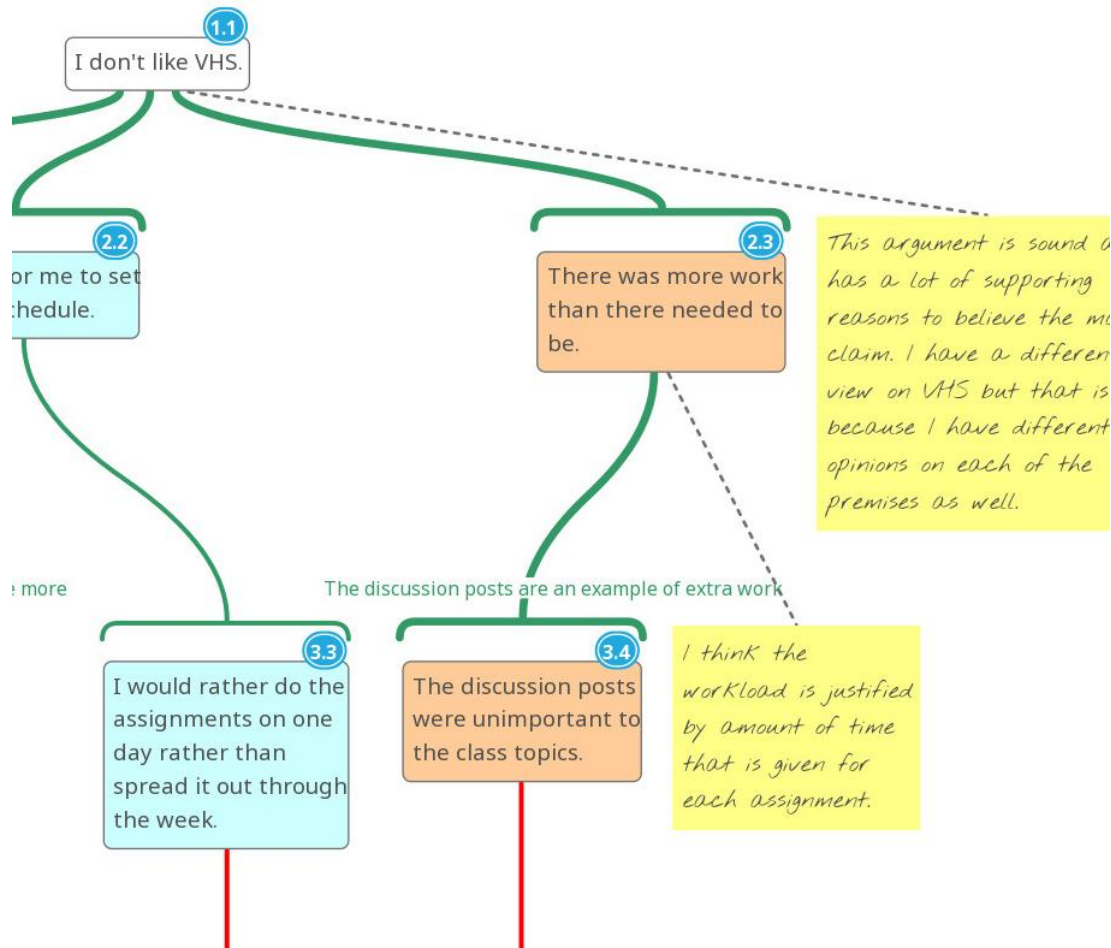
Is the evidence relevant & sufficient?



Are there any reasons not to believe?



Am I practicing intellectual charity?



Is the argument sound?

