


Instructions for Students: Developing a Kialo Discussion

The gist

In this lesson, you will work in groups to explore and balance a Kialo discussion on the question, “Should Fracking Be Banned?” You will begin with a Kialo discussion that mostly represents just one side of the question, then expand the discussion to include both sides.

Activity instructions

Part A: Explore the Kialo discussion

1. Move into your groups and open the discussion assigned to you by your teacher.
2. Explore the discussion by assigning each group member a top claim (claims right below the blue-colored thesis). Then, each group member will read and explore all the claims below their assigned top claim. If your group is larger, two group members can work from the same top claim.
3. As you explore the debate, begin brainstorming claims that you can add to the discussion. You can also click on the linked sources to get a broader understanding of the arguments being made.
4. If you finish reading the claims early, you can look for additional sources. Consult the “Suggested readings for research” in the background info (this can be found by clicking the  button in the top-left corner of the discussion).

Part B: Develop the Kialo discussion

1. With your group, go over your ideas for new claims. Decide which claims you wish to add to the debate and where to put the claims, keeping in mind to:
 - Balance the discussion. For instance, if you were assigned the pro-fracking version of the discussion, most of your added claims should offer anti-fracking arguments.
 - Keep claims to 1-2 sentences that express a single, basic point.
 - Use multiple claims to show a longer line of reasoning.
 - Build your arguments by placing detailed claims below more general ones.
 - Avoid repeating ideas.
2. Write your new claims and balance the debate. Each group member should add at least 5 new claims.