Oral Explanations

Purpose: The purpose of this assignment is to provide you with the opportunity to clarify, communicate and make tangible their understanding of various ideas, concepts, and procedures that arise through reading scholarly articles, chapters, and books

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Rationale: Learning is an active endeavor involving the processing of knowledge and experience. This processing enhances learning when it involves (a) the retrieval of the new knowledge (not just re-experiencing the new knowledge), (b) the meaningful use of the new knowledge (not just a rote application of new knowledge), (c) the retrieval and use of the new knowledge over time (not just a one day or one week experience), and (d) the self-generation of understanding and use (not just a reception of ideas). Thus, oral explanations are designed to require you to read a chapter and organize the ideas and concepts in a meaningful (to you) way in order to create and deliver the oral explanation. This approach results in active learning.

Format: The Oral Explanations should result in a clear, concise, and coherently organized explanation and application, not to exceed 5 minutes. *The oral explanation should focus on the readings indicated on the Tentative Course Calendar.* This discussion should include sufficient details and examples (not from the reading) to make the concept(s) under discussion clear to someone not familiar with the reading.

The content of each oral explanation should reflect *your understanding* of the reading. Do not try to "cover" everything in a reading so that the explanation is simply a content dump. The oral explanation should be constructed (a) to **explain** the reading to an audience that is unfamiliar with the concept(s), and (b) to **apply** the concept(s) to a current problem, issue, or situation. Both explanation and application are essential.

Grading of the Oral Explanations: Each Oral Explanation is worth 100 pts and graded thusly:

1. Organization — 15 pts
    a. are introductions and conclusions used effectively?
    b. do the expressed ideas follow a logical progression?
    c. are explanations and applications provided?

2. Clarity of Thought and Expression — 25 pts
    a. are the ideas expressed well, well thought out, and integrated?
    b. are there clear and logical transitions between ideas/components?
    c. are correct grammar and syntax used?

3. Essential Content Explanation — 30 pts
    a. does the explanation address the concepts read?
    b. does the explanation explain, rather than just list, the concepts in the reading?
    c. can the reading be well understood after listening to the explanation?

4. Essential Content Application — 30 pts
    a. is a problem, issue, or situation explained clearly?
    b. are concepts from the texts and class used to address the cited problem?
    c. is the application thorough, meaningful, and appropriate?

Process: The Oral Explanations will be submitted using **Flip** (see **info.flip.com**). Flip will allow you to record your explanation using the web via a desktop or laptop computer, or your cell phone. The videos that are created will be private and secure, that is, no one will be able to see your video except you and the instructor. In addition, you will not need to sign-up or join Flip. You will receive a flip code/url from the instructor via the course website with a link that will take you to a page to create your video. Finally, you will receive feedback on your explanation via flip and the course website.

You can **check to see if your browser works** with Flip using: https://info.flip.com/en-us/about/system-check.html

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Pragmatics:

1. Be thoughtful	• think before you create.
2. Be concise	• there is a lot to include in a short explanation.
3. Be creative	• as long as the central tenets of the explanation are addressed.

Course Flip Link:

Here is the link for the course Flip site: https://flip.com/a744c6c7 That said, for each Flip reading response, there's a specific link as well. See the course calendar for those links.

Timeline:

See the Syllabus.

Honor Code: The Graduate Honor Code will be strictly enforced on this assignment. Any suspected violations of the Honor Code will be promptly reported to the Honor System. Students are allowed to discuss with other students the nature of this assignment, their understanding of the readings, and the general concepts they will be discussing in the oral explanations. Students should not, however, share their completed explanations with other students in the class. Beyond that, the Honor Code's general principles of cheating, plagiarism, falsification, and sabotage are still applicable (see http://ghs.grads.vt.edu/).

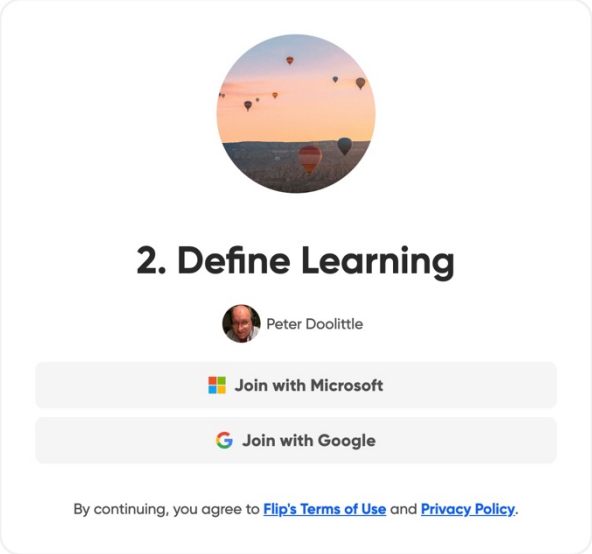
USING FLIP

To manage these oral explanations, the class will use Flip (info.flip.com). Flip will allow you to create and store your oral explanations in a *secure environment*. The only person who can see your videos is the instructor.

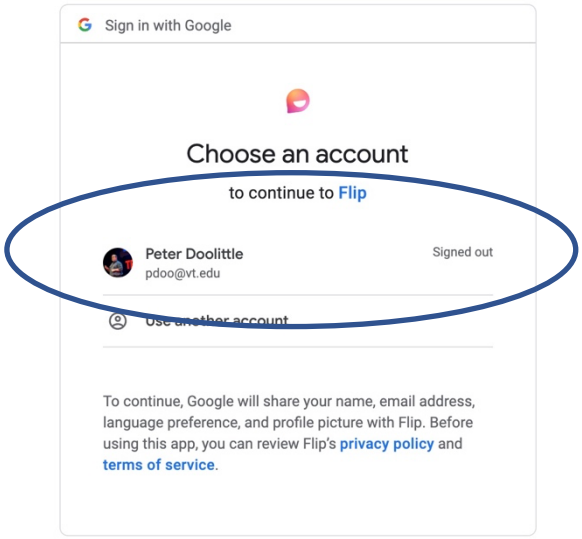
Here's the routine:

1. You will be provided with a link for each reading that looks something like this: flip.com/96ca306c. This is available on the course website and syllabus.

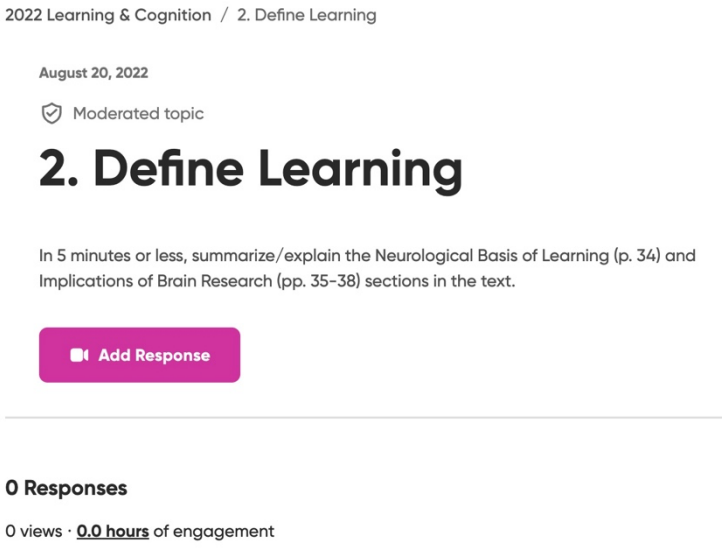
2. Click on "Join with Google" to verify your email address (you won't be signing up for Flip, just the discussion/topic). **You must use your vt.edu address.**



3. Select your vt.edu email address.

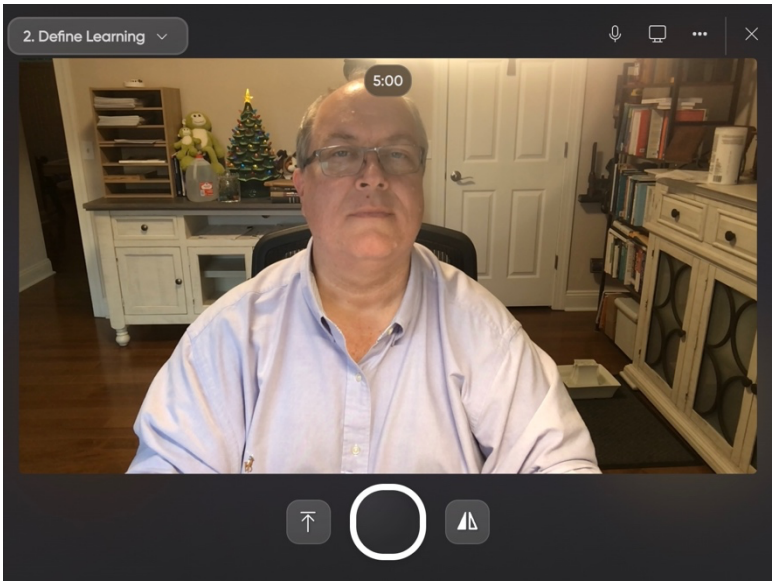


4. You will now be set to record your response to the reading.

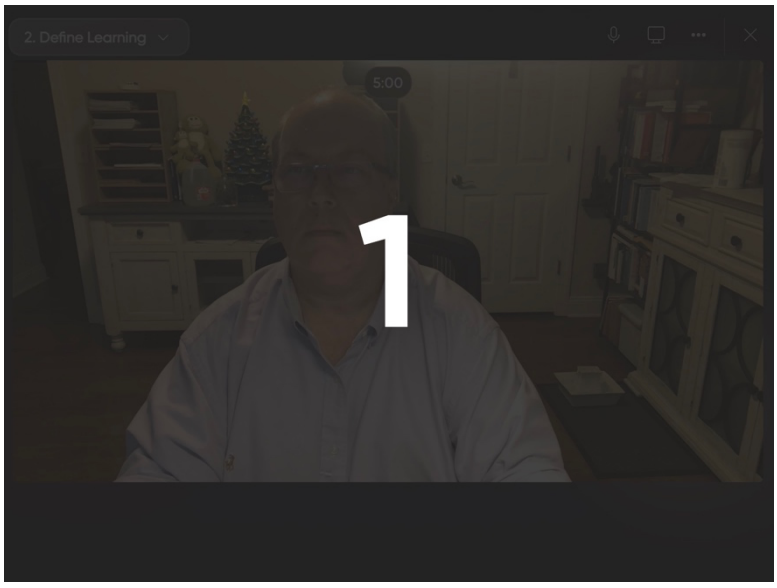


Miscellaneous
Here are a few miscellaneous ideas to help you out.

1. The video you create will only be viewable by yourself and the instructor. You can verify this by looking for “Moderated” below the record button.



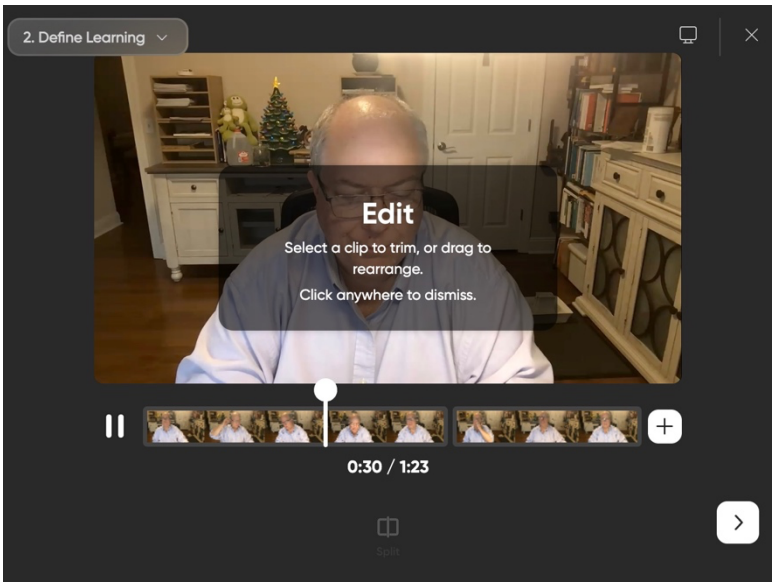
2. You will see what your camera sees with a round record button. When you click on the record button there will be a 3 – 2 – 1 countdown before recording starts.



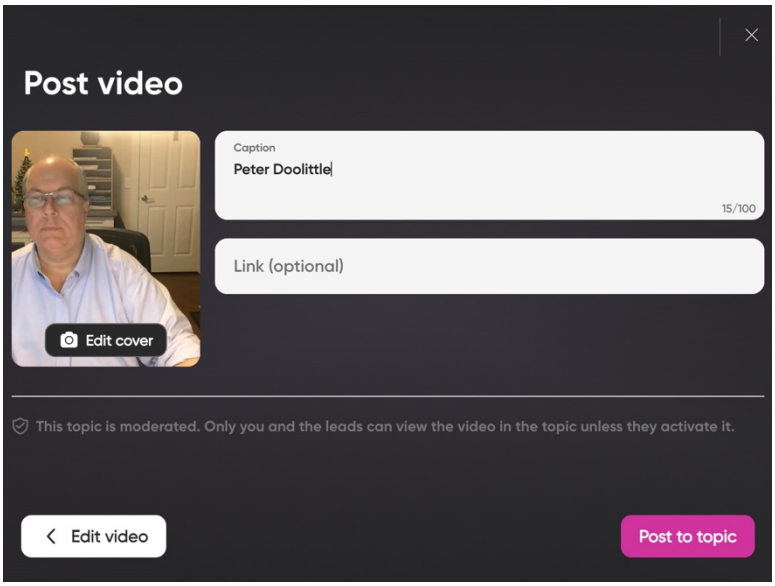
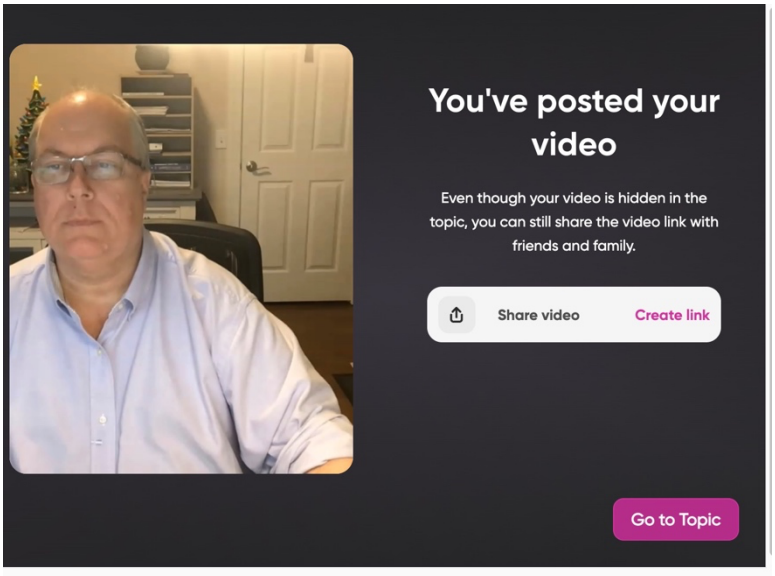
3. Once you have started recording you have a few options.

a. There is a 5-minute countdown clock at the top center of the screen.
b. You can start and stop your video by clicking on the center circle with the red box.
c. You can restart by clicking on the circle arrow at the bottom left of the screen.
d. When you like your recording, click on the arrow at the bottom right of the screen.
e. If you just want to get out of this all together, click on the X at the top right of the screen.

4. You can make edits as needed. Once you have your finished video, click on the arrow at the bottom right of the screen.



5. Once you're finished, you submit your video. **Please** put your full name in the Caption box. Feel free not to look so grumpy.



6. Once you submit your video, you will see a Success! notice and then click on Complete.