

Understanding your discipline in the 'here-and-now'

1. For humanities/social science students: find one or two 'big debates' currently going on in your discipline. Create a mind map or visual representation of that debate.

For science students: find out some of the most recent problems being addressed by your discipline or applications of research in the real world. A good place to start is here:

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/>. Identify what the development does that's new and what the innovation still doesn't do.

2. For humanities/social science students: find a 'roundtable discussion' in an academic journal relating to your subject. Follow it and reflect on it in writing. Who do you agree/disagree with and why?

For science students: find an example where scientific evidence has been misreported or misrepresented for a lay audience. How has it been misreported or misrepresented? Do the reported conclusions/results/effects still stand?

3. Follow a discussion thread related to your academic discipline on social media (e.g. Twitter). 'Follow' one or two academics in your field and find interesting threads. Position yourself in relation to these. Who do you agree / disagree with and why? Read a brief history of your academic discipline, e.g. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mathematics>.