

- **Improved comprehension:** to enable students to clarify their understanding of key concepts in the course through discussion with other students;
- **building an argument:** analyze the logic or power of someone else's argument and build and defend one's own position, using materials from the course or other relevant materials;
- **knowledge construction:** to encourage a deeper understanding of concepts, their applicability in different contexts and their relatedness to other concepts, or to acquire new meanings;
- **collaborative learning:** to enable students to learn from each other, to share knowledge and experience, and to learn to support and help each other;
- **critical thinking:** to encourage students to engage constructively in critical analysis of ideas, concepts, philosophies and processes/procedures, and to form, defend and reflect on their own position on issues raised in the teaching;
- **to create a learning community:** to develop a sense of belonging to a group with similar learning interests, in order to foster student engagement, and improve student retention; feedback for the instructor: to enable the instructor to see how learning is taking place within the group, to identify misunderstandings or areas of weakness

