

Teaching philosophy

Here is a collection of ideas for alternatives to the lecture! Thanks to all the teachers who have contributed to the list over the years, and especially to Geoff Willis who came up with many of them.

1. Textual analysis
 - a. Marking up a text: identifying premises, conclusions, connecting words (Therefore, So, Because, etc.)
 - b. Creating a map of the argument: assumptions, premises, conclusion
 - c. Explaining the argument in your own words
 - d. Précis
2. Odd one out game (apply to philosophers or theories or concepts)
3. Venn diagrams, e.g. what falls under mind, what body?
4. Spider webs: place one concept in centre, see what attaches; change concept
5. A3 mind map to A4 précis
6. Acting out – students play roles within a theory, e.g. theories of perception – subject, sense data, physical objects – form arrangements illustrating each theory
7. Mysteries – philosophy as ‘whodunit’
8. Debate
9. Puppet shows
10. Bingo
11. Create an advert for a theory
12. Students explain to non-philosophy students invited in for the session
13. Hotseating – a student assumes the role of a particular philosopher and answers questions
14. Essay analysis by Assessment Objectives
15. P4C – Philosophy for Children, a methodology for philosophical discussion. See www.sapere.org.uk for information and training
16. Junk modelling – using junk, create a model of the passage of text
17. Oral exam
18. Scrambling – sorting (e.g. key phrases from different texts; terms from different theories)
19. Newspaper cuttings; fill envelope with cut-outs of relevance (provide guidance)
20. Beginner’s Guides; Introducing... series of books
21. TV or radio debate, e.g. *In Our Time*
22. Video: Richmond video library, RITE Examined Life series (see Links page on website)
23. Films (see Links page)
24. Students creating PowerPoint presentations
25. Use digital photos to create cartoons of a theory