

The Concurrently Companion



Episode 44: Exploring news with the Big 5

Topic introduction

Today, in response to a listener question, we're pulling out all the tools, moving from room to room and taking inventory, focusing on "The Big 5" an adaptation of *Aristotle's Five Common Topics of the dialectic*.

Discussion

Key terms: *topic, location, Aristotle, dialectic, conversational learning, collaborative learning, connective learning, dynamic learning, EQ, CQ, authority, holistic learning, redemptive narrative*

Questions

What are the five common topics of the dialectic—the five places we can locate our conversation to draw out the learning at home or in the classroom?

What makes "The Big 5" a helpful tool for conversation? How do the topics lead to clear thinking?

Why do we define our terms at the beginning of a conversation?

Where have we seen multiplication of words in our culture? Why? Name some examples.

What does context have to do with definition? What kind of contexts or circumstances do we need to take into consideration?

Is this all about logic and cognitive processes? Explain.

How do emotions come into this part of the conversation? How do we best approach emotions? (What does doing so require of us as parents? What do we need to help draw out of our kids and students?)

What other tools interact well with The Big 5 (consider the analytical tools we have previously introduced)? *Comparison and contrast work is some of the most accessible analytical work you can engage with any developmental level—a great way to oil the gears of critical thinking!

When we explore the "cause and effects" of events in history, what location/topic have we entered? How do these ideas interact with learning from failure?

What do authority and testimony have to do with navigating the news?

How does our understanding of God's authority (and capital "T" Truth) challenge our thinking, feeling, and action?

What supplies the framework we need to answer: "What can we affirm? What should we challenge?"

What do my children think? How do I learn what they are thinking? And what are my best tools for helping to shape their thinking?

Scriptural anchors/provision

Blessed is the one who finds wisdom, and the one who gets understanding, for the gain from her is better than gain from silver and her profit better than gold. She is more precious than jewels, and nothing you desire can compare with her. — Proverbs 3:13-15

Get wisdom; get insight; do not forget, and do not turn away from the words of my mouth. Do not forsake her, and she will keep you; love her, and she will guard you. The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom, and whatever you get, get insight. — Proverbs 4:5-7

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