

The EI Think Tank

Introduction

Teacher notes

The class teacher prepares the avatars with the different conversations they can have – generating them using GenAI. When students use the tool, they can only choose between conversations and avatars that the teacher deems appropriate.

The prompt which we used to generate all the sample conversations for the Think Tank stated that the characters should at first insist that their discipline is the only discipline to give useful information and then begin to learn from each other.

GENAI GENERATED CONVERSATIONS – ADDRESSING THE QUESTION ...

HOW WAS THE WORLD CREATED?

Suppose the student selects – physics, theology, languages and geology as their disciplines –we have pasted below, our 'saved' GenAI generated conversation that students see take place between scholars in each discipline.

A Conversation About Creation

The Characters:

- **Physicist:** A curious, numbers-oriented person with a love for equations and experiments.
- **Theologian:** A thoughtful individual who explores the meaning of life and the universe through faith and sacred texts.
- **Linguist:** A word lover who studies languages and how people communicate.
- **Geologist:** An earth enthusiast who investigates the planet's history through rocks and landforms.

The Conversation:

The four scholars sit around a large, wooden table.

Physicist: "The universe began with a Big Bang. It's a scientific fact. From that singular point of immense energy, everything expanded. No need for myths or ancient texts. Physics holds the key to creation."

Theologian: "With all due respect, Physicist, your Big Bang is merely a starting point. What caused the Big Bang? And what is the purpose behind it all? These

are questions that science alone cannot answer. Theology, the study of God and religion, offers a deeper understanding."

Linguist: "I must interrupt. Both of you are missing the point. The universe is a story, and stories are made of words. Language is the foundation of human understanding. Before there was science or religion, there was language. It's through language that we construct our reality."

Geologist: "You're all looking at the world through a narrow lens. The Earth is a living organism with a history billions of years old. Its rocks tell stories of continents shifting, oceans forming, and life evolving. This geological timeline is the true foundation of everything."

A moment of silence as each scholar considers the others' points.

Physicist: "I see what you mean, Geologist. The Earth's age and the processes shaping it are essential to understanding the universe's timeline. Perhaps the Big Bang was just the beginning of a much grander story."

Theologian: "And Linguist, you've made me realize that the stories in sacred texts are attempts to describe the indescribable. Maybe they are using metaphors and symbols to convey truths that science and geology can complement."

Linguist: "Exactly! Language evolves, and so do our understanding of the world. Perhaps religious texts are early attempts at scientific and philosophical exploration expressed through the lens of their time."

Geologist: "I never thought about it this way. The layers of the Earth mirror the layers of human knowledge. The oldest rocks hold secrets, just like the earliest languages and religious beliefs."

The group falls into a thoughtful silence.

Physicist: "So, maybe it's not about one discipline being right and the others wrong. Perhaps they are all pieces of a vast puzzle."

Theologian: "I believe you're right. Science can explain the 'how', while theology explores the 'why' and 'for what purpose'. Together, they offer a more complete picture."

Linguist: "And language is the bridge between them, allowing us to share, question, and refine our understanding."

Geologist: "The Earth's history is the backdrop on which this grand story unfolds. It provides the timeline and context for everything else."

They all nod in agreement.

The conversation continues, with the four scholars exploring new connections and insights, realizing that their combined knowledge offers a richer and more profound understanding of the world's creation.

The key point here is that each discipline offers a unique perspective and methodology. By combining their strengths, they can create a more comprehensive understanding of the world.

ENDS

This example from Gemini uses a storytelling narrative.

The Big Bang Brunch

Once upon a time, four very clever people met over brunch to discuss a very big question: How did the world begin?

There was Physicist, who looked at the world through equations and experiments. "The universe started with a Big Bang," she said confidently. "A tiny, incredibly hot and dense point exploded, and everything we see today – stars, planets, even you and me – came from that."

Then there was Theologian, who studied old books and thought deeply about the meaning of life. "The world was created by a higher power," he declared. "A force beyond our understanding designed everything with a purpose."

Linguist, a lover of words and languages, joined in. "Nonsense," she scoffed. "The world began with a story. Humans created language to explain the unexplainable. It's in our myths, our poems, and our everyday conversations."

Finally, Geologist, with her hands full of rocks and maps, chuckled. "You're all missing the point," she said. "The world is a story written in stone. Billions of years of history are recorded in the rocks. The world was shaped slowly, over time."

For a moment, the room was filled with the sound of disagreeing voices. Physicist rolled her eyes at Theologian's talk of magic. Theologian shook his head at Physicist's cold equations. Linguist and Geologist argued about whether words or rocks told the truer story.

But then, something magical happened. They started to listen to each other.

Physicist realized that Theologian's ideas about purpose and meaning could add depth to her understanding of the universe. Maybe the Big Bang wasn't just an explosion, but the start of a grand story.

Theologian discovered that Physicist's evidence of the universe's age gave new weight to the old stories of creation. Perhaps the higher power used the laws of physics to shape the world.

Linguist saw that Geologist's rock stories echoed the ancient myths of earth and sky. Maybe language was born from trying to understand the world as seen in the rocks.

Geologist found that Physicist's timeline of the universe helped her understand the incredible age of the rocks she studied. And Linguist's stories of creation gave her new ways to imagine the world's beginning.

Slowly, they began to build a richer picture together. They realized that each of their disciplines offered a different piece of the puzzle. The physicist's numbers,

the theologian's stories, the linguist's words, and the geologist's rocks all worked together to tell the amazing story of how the world came to be.

And so, they learned that while their questions, methods, and ways of thinking were different, their goal was the same – to understand the world around them. And sometimes, the best way to do that is by working together.

Would you like to know more about any of these disciplines?

This is the prompt given to the GenAI:

my big question is - how was the world created - show me a physicist, theologian, linguist and geologist in conversation - where at first they each insist that their discipline is the key to understanding and the other disciplines have nothing useful to say but then learn from each other and develop a richer narrative together. call the characters by their discipline. use the epistemic insight curriculum framework - that different disciplines have different preferred questions, methods and norms of thought - to underpin how each discipline works. answer for a 14 year old.