

Public Thinking Spaces

Resources from DELITE conference

2016

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**Constructive and
critical space**

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**Digital public space for
sharing ideas and
collaboration**

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**Making appropriate
space for the specific
learning outcome**

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**Anywhere, anything,
any number of people**

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**Potential pedagogical
purposes of creating
and using Public
Thinking Spaces nbsp;**

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**What could be
considered as Public
Thinking Spaces?**

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**Construct/develop
ideas through
collaboration**

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**Place that is goal-less -
sat thinking about stuff**

Arrangement of space?
Influence of rules

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Pub?

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Putting an idea out "there"

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Having time and space to come together

raising a question or issue
or concern

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What does Public Thinking Spaces mean?

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Could be used to draw more voices

Less conforming

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Spontaneous

e.g. 'speakers corner' by the
Brian Clough Statue

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**A physical location
where thinking and
reflection take place
and can be shared**

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**Any space where
people meet**

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Thinking together
Individual or collaborative?

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**Freedom to express
views**

Safety:
Physical
Intellectual
Social

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Physical layout of room influences

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Share knowledge/create shared understanding

Sense of belonging
Sense of community
Motivation

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Design of space influence how people think

Does the design of space
influence the outcome of
thinking?
- Digital: can't see what
people aren't saying;
- Physical: can see people
but might not be as brave
to come forward

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**Taking students off site
to prepare them for
getting a graduate job**

Helped to create a safe
space between 'university'
and 'work'(which is public)

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**Spaces, physical and
digital, where social
learning can happen**

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**Can you 'create'
(prescribe) shared
physical spaces or do
users need to be able to
create and shape them
themselves?**

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**Building shared
understanding and
sense of
belonging **

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Conceptual Space
a space in the time between
the teaching...

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**Place must feel safe for
participants**
As much to do with the
culture of the place as the
properties of the space

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Public = 'Be seen'?

Open access?
Inward reflection
Open space for thought

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Influence/change through processes

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**Take students out of
routine/comfort zone
to aid thinking in a
different way**

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**Competition -
encourages
engagement**

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**Does social media
provide a platform for
individual thought or
homogenise opinion?**

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Safety and Trust

Need to feel that it is ok to
express opinions/get things
'wrong

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Open areas not specific to courses

Chaucer used to have area
for this

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Back-channels: capturing a group's thinking in real-time

Requires multi-tasking

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Thoughtful social media spaces - blogs, forums etc.

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