Theme 11: Discussion

Evaluating the Discussion section

Task 1

Your tutor will divide the class into two groups.

Student A:

Read the discussion section from a journal article about how parents influence university students’ financial attitudes and behaviours in the United States.

Student B:

Read the discussion section from a journal article about the economic conditions of young people in five countries before and after 2008.

Task 2

Work with a student who read the same Discussion as you and answer the questions below.

1. What is the function of paragraph 1, or the section introduction?
2. Do the writers clearly refer to their research questions (or hypotheses)?
3. How often are connections between the literature review and the findings made?
4. Underline the expressions which connect the literature review to the findings.
5. Can you find examples of specific key data that the researchers have included

a) from their own findings?

b) from the previous literature?

1. Do the article writers’ results always match the theories in the literature review?
2. Do the writers speculate about reasons for trends?
3. How many expressions of hedging can you identify?
4. Do the writers express any limitations of their research?
5. Do the writers discuss any implications of their research? This could include: Recommendations for changes in policy or procedure by organisations/individuals operating within the field, amendments to a theory; or highlighting directions for further research such as indicating gaps, making suggestions about methodology.

Task 3

Swap partners, so that you are now sitting with someone who read the other Discussion. Tell your new partner about your Discussion by making reference to the questions in Task 2.

Task 4

Make a note below of useful language used by the researchers in the Discussion section.

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| **Module Learning Outcomes Covered** | **Academic Literacies Covered** |
| ML5 | AL1 |
| Choose an item. | AL2 |
| Choose an item. | AL8 |