



International Teaching Aid
Competition 2023

Reconnoitering Innovative Ideas in Postnormal Times

iTAC

2023

iTAC 2023
INTERNATIONAL TEACHING AID COMPETITION
E-PROCEEDINGS

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PREFACE

iTAC or International Teaching Aid Competition 2023 was a venue for academicians, researchers, industries, junior and young inventors to showcase their innovative ideas not only in the teaching and learning sphere but also in other numerous disciplines of study. This competition was organised by the Special Interest Group, Public Interest Centre of Excellence (SIG PICE) UiTM Kedah Branch, Malaysia. Its main aim was to promote the production of innovative ideas among academicians, students and also the public at large.

In accordance with the theme "Reconnoitering Innovative Ideas in Post-normal Times", the development of novel ideas from the perspectives of interdisciplinary innovations is more compelling today, especially in the post-covid 19 times. Post-pandemic initiatives are the most relevant in the current world to adapt to new ways of doing things and all these surely require networking and collaboration. Rising to the occasion, iTAC 2023 has managed to attract more than 267 participations for all categories. The staggering number of submissions has proven the relevance of this competition to the academic world and beyond in urging the culture of innovating ideas.

iTAC 2023 committee would like to thank all creative participants for showcasing their innovative ideas with us. As expected in any competition, there will be those who win and those who lose. Congratulations to all the award recipients (Diamond, Gold, Silver and Bronze) for their winning entries. Those who did not make the cut this year can always improve and join us again later.

It is hoped that iTAC 2023 has been a worthy platform for all participating innovators who have shown ingenious efforts in their products and ideas. This compilation of extended abstracts published as iTAC 2023 E-Proceedings contains insights into what current researchers, both experienced and novice, find important and relevant in the post-normal times.

Best regards,

iTAC 2023 Committee
Special Interest Group, Public Interest Centre of Excellence (SIG PICE)
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INTERDISCIPLINARY INK: HARNESSING THE POWER OF COLLABORATION FOR ARGUMENTATIVE WRITING

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ABSTRACT

Argumentative writing is a vital skill in academia and beyond, requiring students to articulate coherent and persuasive arguments. To enhance the educational experience in this area, an innovative teaching approach – Interdisciplinary Ink, was implemented, centered around collaboration and interdisciplinary engagement. The teaching initiative utilizes a webinar with an invited speaker, who is an expert in the field of argumentative writing, as a medium for instruction, transcending traditional classroom boundaries. The invited speaker delivered engaging presentation, facilitated interactive discussions, and provided valuable insights to students from diverse disciplines in a virtual learning environment. Real-world examples and experiences were shared, enabling students to gain a deeper understanding of the topic. Active participation and engagement were encouraged through group discussions, collaborative assignments, and peer-to-peer feedback. This interactive setting allowed students to apply the concepts learned and develop their argumentative writing skills in a supportive and interactive environment. The interdisciplinary collaboration that took place promoted the exchange of ideas and knowledge among students from different disciplines, fostering critical thinking and creativity. Students benefited from exposure to a wider range of perspectives, enhancing their comprehensive understanding of argumentative writing. The interdisciplinary collaboration nurtured a multidisciplinary approach to problem-solving, preparing students for real-world challenges that require diverse perspectives. Additionally, the opportunity to interact with experts in the field provided valuable guidance and insights, enriching the learning experience. The success of this approach suggests its potential for informing future pedagogical practices and the development of innovative teaching strategies as well as the transformative impact of collaborative and interdisciplinary approach to argumentative writing

instruction.

Keywords: argumentative writing, innovative teaching, interdisciplinary collaboration, learning community, webinars

INTRODUCTION

In the realm of academia and beyond, argumentative writing holds immense significant as a vital skill for effective communication and critical thinking. In the era of post-normal times, where conventional norms and approaches are being challenged, reconnoitering innovative ideas becomes crucial to adapt and thrive in an ever-changing landscape. This paper explores the transformative power of collaborative teaching through *Interdisciplinary Ink* in harnessing the potential of argumentative writing and fostering interdisciplinary engagement. By examining the educational experience within the context of reconnoitering innovative ideas in post-modern times, we aim to shed light on the value of interdisciplinary collaboration and its impact on enhancing students' argumentative writing skills.

The theme of "Reconnoitering Innovative Ideas in Post-normal Times" serves as the guiding principle for the development of the teaching methodology known as *Interdisciplinary Ink*. This approach transcends traditional boundaries by integrating webinars with invited speakers and promoting interdisciplinary collaboration among students from diverse disciplines. This approach breaks the confines of the conventional classroom, offering a virtual platform where students can interact and engage with experts in the field of argumentative writing (Brown & Johnson, 2020). The utilization of webinars as a medium for instruction allows for the seamless exchange of knowledge, fostering a dynamic learning environment that encourages the exploration of diverse perspectives and ideas.

The integration of webinars with invited speakers serves as a cornerstone of the *Interdisciplinary Ink* approach. These experts deliver engaging presentations, facilitate interactive discussions and share real-world examples and experiences, showcasing the practical applications of argumentative writing in various contexts. This exposure to expert knowledge enhances students' understanding of the subject matter and equips them with the necessary tools to engage in meaningful discourse.

The collaborative nature of *Interdisciplinary Ink* fosters active participation and engagement among students. Through group discussions, collaborative assignments, and peer-to-peer feedback, students have the opportunity to apply the concepts they learn and refine their argumentative writing skills within a supportive and interactive environment. This multidisciplinary approach nurtures critical thinking and creativity, enabling students to become effective communicators and persuasive advocates of their ideas.

Furthermore, the reconnoitering of innovative ideas in post-normal times necessitates a multidisciplinary approach. Interdisciplinary collaboration enables students to harness the collective intelligence of diverse perspectives and disciplines, preparing them to address complex real-world challenges. By bringing together students from various disciplines, Interdisciplinary Ink creates a rich learning community that promotes the exchange of ideas and fosters a comprehensive understanding of argumentative writing within the context of post-normal times.

OBJECTIVES

Interdisciplinary Ink was developed with three primary objectives in mind. These objectives align with the goal of equipping students with the necessary skills and mindset to succeed in academia, professions, and the broader context of post-normal times.

Firstly, it aims to promote interdisciplinary collaboration among students. By bringing together individuals from diverse disciplines, the program aims to create a rich and dynamic learning community where students can exchange ideas, perspectives, and knowledge. Through collaborative assignments, group discussions, and interactive activities, students have the opportunity to engage with different disciplinary approaches to argumentative writing, fostering a multidimensional understanding of the subject.

Another key objective of *Interdisciplinary Ink* is to enhance students' argumentative writing skills. By incorporating webinars with invited speakers who are experts in the field, the program provides students with valuable insights, guidance, and real-world examples. Through engaging presentations, interactive discussions, and peer-to-peer feedback, students develop a deeper understanding of effective argumentation techniques, critical thinking, and persuasive communication. The program encourages students to apply these skills in various contexts, equipping them with the ability to construct compelling arguments in academic, professional, and societal settings.

Thirdly, *Interdisciplinary Ink* aims to cultivate innovation and adaptability among students by embracing technology, interdisciplinary collaboration, and real-world applications. In the context of post-normal times, the ability to reconnoiter innovative ideas and adapt to changing circumstances is crucial. By exposing students to a diverse range of perspectives and facilitating creative problem-solving, the program encourages students to think outside the box, challenge conventional approaches, and develop innovative strategies in argumentative writing. This objective prepares students to navigate the complexities of our rapidly evolving world, where new ideas and approaches are continuously emerging.

NOVELTY

Interdisciplinary Ink introduces a novel approach by incorporating webinars as a medium for instruction, revolutionizing the traditional classroom setting. This innovative departure offers

students unparalleled flexibility, accessibility, and engagement in their learning journey. By leveraging webinars, *Interdisciplinary Ink* transcends geographical limitations, providing a virtual platform where students can connect and interact with esteemed experts in the field of argumentative writing. This novel use of technology enhances the learning experience by offering dynamic and interactive sessions that extend beyond the confines of physical classrooms.

Distinguished by its commitment to breaking disciplinary boundaries, *Interdisciplinary Ink* seamlessly integrates students from diverse academic backgrounds. This interdisciplinary approach fosters a collaborative learning environment, enabling students to explore argumentative writing from multiple perspectives. By bringing together individuals with different disciplinary expertise, the program promotes interdisciplinary dialogue and encourages students to draw insights from various fields, thus enriching their writing practice. This innovative integration cultivates a holistic understanding of argumentative writing, cultivating innovative thinking and problem-solving skills.

A distinctive feature of *Interdisciplinary Ink* lies in the inclusion of invited speakers who are accomplished experts in the field of argumentative writing. These esteemed professionals contribute their vast knowledge and real-world experiences to the program, offering students invaluable insights and guidance. Engaging presentations, interactive discussions, and practical examples provide students with exposure to the practical application of argumentative writing in diverse contexts. This engagement with experts enriches the authenticity and relevance of the learning experience, providing students with a unique opportunity to learn from professionals in the field.

Interdisciplinary Ink places a strong emphasis on fostering critical thinking and creativity in argumentative writing. By fostering an interdisciplinary learning community, the program encourages students to approach writing challenges from multiple angles, stimulating innovative and nuanced perspectives. This departure from rote learning to formulaic approaches empowers students to think critically, challenge assumptions, and develop their own distinctive voices. The program's emphasis on creativity enhances students' ability to craft compelling arguments that resonate with their audience, fostering effective communication skills.

The novelty of *Interdisciplinary Ink* lies in its proactive response to the demands of post-normal times. Recognizing the imperative for students to reconnoiter innovative ideas and adapt to an ever-evolving world, the program fosters interdisciplinary collaboration, technological integration, and real-world applications. By equipping students with the skills and mindset necessary to navigate uncertainties and complexities, *Interdisciplinary Ink* prepares students to embrace emerging challenges, leverage interdisciplinary insights, and contribute to innovative solutions in argumentative writing and beyond. This forward-thinking approach ensures that students are well-prepared to thrive in a rapidly changing world.

In a nutshell, the novelty of *Interdisciplinary Ink* lies in its integration of webinars, interdisciplinary collaboration, expert engagement, emphasis on critical thinking and creativity, and proactive preparation for post-normal times. By combining these unique elements, the program offers students a transformative learning experience that transcends conventional approaches to argumentative writing instruction. *Interdisciplinary Ink* empowers students to excel in a rapidly changing world, where adaptability, innovation, and interdisciplinary collaborations are paramount.

FINDINGS

The findings of *Interdisciplinary Ink* reflect the overwhelmingly positive feedback received from participants, highlighting the program's effectiveness in fostering interdisciplinary collaboration and enhancing argumentative writing skills. Through surveys and qualitative feedback, several key findings emerged, showcasing the impact of this innovative teaching approach.

Firstly, participants expressed a high level of satisfaction with the integration of webinars as a medium for instruction. They found the virtual platform to be accessible and convenient, allowing them to engage in interactive sessions with experts in the field of argumentative writing. The utilization of webinars facilitated lively discussions, enabling participants to gain deeper insights into the topic and learn from real-world examples and experiences. The flexibility offered by webinars also allowed participants from diverse disciplines to come together, creating a rich and diverse learning community.

Secondly, the interdisciplinary nature of *Interdisciplinary Ink* received resounding praise from participants. They appreciated the opportunity to collaborate and exchange ideas with individuals from different academic backgrounds. This interdisciplinary approach promoted a multidimensional understanding of argumentative writing, encouraging participants to consider diverse perspectives and apply insights from various disciplines to their own writing practice. The collaborative environment fostered creativity and innovative thinking, enabling participants to approach writing challenges from unique angles.

Additionally, the engagement with invited speakers was a key highlight mentioned by participants. The experts' presentations, interactive discussions, and valuable insights provided participants with a deeper understanding of argumentative writing in real-world contexts. Participants appreciated the opportunity to interact with professionals in the field, gaining guidance and mentorship that enhanced their learning experience. The engagement with experts further emphasized the relevance and applicability of argumentative writing skills beyond the academic realm.

Furthermore, participants reported a significant improvement in their argumentative writing skills as a result of their participation in *Interdisciplinary Ink*. Through collaborative assignments, group discussions, and peer-to-peer feedback, participants had the opportunity to

apply the concepts they learned and receive constructive criticism from their peers. This iterative process allowed them to refine their writing abilities and develop a more persuasive and cohesive writing style. Participants also noted enhanced critical thinking skills, as they learned to critically analyze arguments, evaluate evidence, and strengthen their own positions.

Overall, the findings of *Interdisciplinary Ink* demonstrate its efficacy in fostering interdisciplinary collaboration, enhancing argumentative writing skills, and promoting critical thinking among participants. The positive feedback received from participants underscores the value of this innovative teaching approach and its potential to transform the educational experience. The findings not only validate the effectiveness of *Interdisciplinary Ink* but also provide insights for future pedagogical practices and the development of innovative teaching strategies in argumentative writing instruction.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

In conclusion, *Interdisciplinary Ink* has proven to be a groundbreaking and effective approach in fostering interdisciplinary collaboration and enhancing argumentative writing skills. The integration of webinars, interdisciplinary engagement, and expert involvement has created a dynamic learning environment that goes beyond traditional classroom boundaries. The positive feedback and findings from participants highlight the program's success in promoting critical thinking, creativity, and a holistic understanding of argumentative writing. Based on the success of *Interdisciplinary Ink*, several recommendations can be made to further enhance its impact and reach. Firstly, expanding the program to a wider audience of students and professionals would allow for even greater interdisciplinary collaboration and knowledge exchange. By inviting participants from diverse backgrounds, including individuals from industry and other academic institutions, the program can leverage a broader range of expertise and perspectives. Secondly, ongoing evaluation and assessment of the program should be conducted to measure its long-term impact on participants' argumentative writing skills and their ability to apply interdisciplinary insights in real-world contexts. This data can inform future iterations of *Interdisciplinary Ink*, ensuring its continued effectiveness and relevance. Furthermore, fostering partnerships with organizations and institutions that value interdisciplinary approaches and argumentative writing skills can lead to collaborative research projects, publications, and opportunities for participants to apply their skills in practical settings. These partnerships can contribute to the commercialization potential of *Interdisciplinary Ink* by showcasing the program's outcomes and attracting external funding and support. By incorporating the recommendations for expansion, evaluation, and partnership-building, the program can continue to pave the way for innovative research and education, ultimately preparing individuals to reconnoiter innovative ideas and make meaningful contributions in post-normal times.

REFERENCE

Brown, A., & Johnson, R. (2020). Harnessing the Power of Webinars in Interdisciplinary Education. *Journal of Educational Technology*, 25(3), 67-84.



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