



Using Chatterbox for Assessment

Chatterbox is a way of getting students to engage in discussion around difficult ethical issues in a safe and supported environment.

At the completion of a Chatterbox discussion, Individual participant reports are generated and these can be used as the basis for assessment (rather than more crude measures such as the number and length of posts). As facilitator, you will have access to all participant reports if you need to double check participant posts. Alternately and to save time, you could ask students to submit their reports with their assessment.

Here are a number of assessment options. These are by no means exhaustive but simply intended to suggest ways you can ensure student engagement by linking the Chatterbox discussion to assessment.

1. Based on your Chatterbox discussion write a short report. Your report should include i) a brief description of the dilemma in your own words; ii) identification of the main ethical issues raised by the dilemma; and iii) your response to these ethical issues, including a justification of your conclusions.
2. Identify the most compelling/persuasive argument made by someone else in the Chatterbox discussion you engaged in. In your own words, describe the thread of posts in which that argument appeared. Why was the argument compelling/persuasive? Give your best response to this argument.
3. Revisit your posts on Chatterbox and choose what you consider to be the weakest and strongest points you made. Rewrite and improve these posts, making explicit the ethical theory or theories which underpin your position.
4. Give a summary of the Chatterbox discussion you engaged in and identify the ethical theories being appealed to at various points (these may not be explicit). Making reference to the discussion, which ethical theory do you find most convincing and why?
5. Reflect on the Chatterbox discussion you engaged in. Describe your initial view on starting the exercise. Has your view changed? Why/why not?
6. Having heard a variety of views on this topic, write a short paper in which you provide the strongest argument you can for each of the 2 starting propositions. Which argument do you find most convincing and why?
7. Identify the argument you made in Chatterbox which aligns most strongly with what you believe. Restate this argument and then make the best argument you can in response. What are the strengths and weaknesses of both these positions?