

# Communication in Context

Kyle Jones | Discussion brief | Working framework | September 2026

**Core idea.** Bring people from different disciplines into conversation around a shared problem, so students connect technical knowledge with the setting in which it is used.

## 1 / The framework

**Shared problem:** Begin with a meaningful situation, not a prescribed solution.

**Different perspectives:** Invite disciplines to identify needs, questions, and constraints.

**Visible context:** Connect decisions to people, workflows, and consequences.

**Shared understanding:** Explain reasoning, negotiate tradeoffs, and reflect on what changed.

Faculty externships inform this approach by connecting technical knowledge with the people and practices around it. A small learning experiment can follow five steps: **frame, question, develop, reflect, and build on what emerges.**

## 2 / A shared scenario

A clinic is considering digital check-in. Suppose the team adds an assisted check-in option. Technology must support staff access; healthcare must fit assistance into patient flow; business must consider staffing; design must make help easy to find; cybersecurity must define appropriate access. These are discussion hypotheses, not established findings.

**Ask:** Which benefit does this choice create? Which new constraint appears in another discipline? What would the team need to learn before deciding?

## 3 / Sample discussion rubric

Draft criteria for formative feedback. Adapt together before using for assessment; this is not a validated instrument.

| Criterion                  | Emerging                 | Developing                             | Connecting                                 |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| Context                    | Names the task.          | Identifies people and constraints.     | Uses context to justify choices.           |
| Perspectives               | Describes one viewpoint. | Includes another discipline.           | Explains how viewpoints affect each other. |
| Tradeoffs                  | Proposes a solution.     | Recognizes a competing need.           | Weighs consequences and explains a choice. |
| Communication & reflection | States an idea.          | Explains reasoning and asks questions. | Shows how dialogue changed the approach.   |

## 4 / Leave the meeting with one experiment

Choose a shared problem, two or more participating disciplines, one learning goal, and evidence to review.

**What will we try, who will collaborate, and when will we reflect?**