



“Believing & Doubting” is a technique to get students to critically engage course readings by reacting to important quotes. On a physical or digital bulletin board (like Padlet), set up different boards with different quotes.

First, students interrogate the quote by believing it—by entering into the idea and giving credit to its premises and possibilities. The intention is to come to understand the idea from the author’s perspective as much as possible. Then, in a separate comment, students doubt the idea. Consider all the pitfalls, all the reasons that make what the excerpt suggests implausible.

To make the division clear, doubt comments should be posted to one side of the central quote and believe comments to the other.

Example:

