

Design and communication



Using writing as a cognitive tool

Why integrating content and communication?

- To provide students with a good learning tool and a way to strengthening a cognitive approach to their own design process
- Different modes of communication: sketching, reflecting, modelling and presenting

How did we start?

“Communication skills important and something engineers need....”

from separate entities....

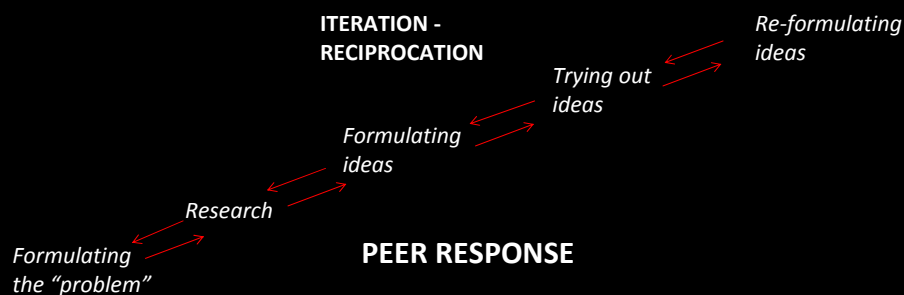
core contents *and* communication

to inclusive entities....

core contents *through* communication

Designing communication Communicating design

The dual function of communication
- learning and presenting -



The outcome

More anxiety... (students and teachers!)

Uncertainty of the task – what to prioritise?

Qualitatively improved projects

Greater awareness of the processes

Tools for formulating ideas (writing and sketching)

So, what are the challenges?

Enforcing and clarifying the relationship between content and communication.

Making writing and communication an explicit part of learning.

Finding a balance - what skills are assessed and how?

Speaking in one voice – communicating across the disciplines...

Meeting student expectations – *what's in a grade...*