

## PRE-COURSE TASK

One of the many delights of IWB technology is how they lend themselves to encouraging dynamic ‘fresh’ approaches to existing good practice.

Pages 8 – 12 on the *PowerPoint* illustrate a technique promoting high-order discussion. The origins of this exercise, however, originally involved a paper exercise where Sixth Form students, in small groups, debated the contrasting points-of-view and facts relating to out-of-town retail centres, with instructions to agree on 5 key ‘pros’ and 5 key ‘cons’.

The exercise is illustrative of many Sixth Form discussion situations demanding individual, justified resolution of potentially contentious problems. As in all such decision-making exercises, appreciation of contrasting points-of-view, evaluation of facts and/or statistics, and prioritizing of data promote in-depth comprehension and understanding - and allow longer-term recall of salient arguments for examination at a later stage.

A valuable, quick ‘ice-breaking’ pre-course task is to organize the participants into small groups, and set them this exercise using the paper lists of all statements reproduced on Page 12. Simply photocopy sufficient copies, guillotine the strips, and hand out the full sets in envelopes.

Set a time limit of no more than 10 minutes, and illustrate a valuable point in the later INSET - namely how IWBs encourage positive evaluation and review of existing teaching strategies, and not necessarily a ‘start from scratch’ approach.