

## HANDOUT 3.8A The PMI: Plus Minus Interesting

PMI helps promote thinking and discussion by soliciting differing perspectives on an issue. This teaching strategy may be used in a variety of ways: to explore issues for argumentation, promote group discussion, develop thesis statements, and /or activate schema and develop mental models about the conceptual territory of a topic.

Offer a claim

**Plus:** What positives or pros might follow from the claim?

**Minus:** What negatives or cons might follow from the claim?

**Interesting:** What new interesting or significant insights or angles might be revealed through a consideration of the claim? Something you might not have considered previously?

**Example:** All the seats should be taken out of buses.

**P:** More people can get into each bus.

It would be easier to get in and out.

Buses would be cheaper to make and repair.

**M:** Passengers would fall over if the bus stopped suddenly.

Elderly and disabled people would not be able to use buses.

It would be difficult to carry shopping bags or babies.

**I:** Maybe there should be two types of buses, one with seats and one without seats.

The same bus would do more work and have more flexibility (e.g., one without seats could be used to carry cargo).

Comfort may not be so important in a bus.

Other claim statements we have successfully used:

All cars should be yellow.

All faculty and students should wear mood rings.

Special training and certification from the state should be required prior to dating/marriage/bearing children.

Using social media should require rigorous training, testing, and a license.

### PMI EXAMPLE

Article: “Harvesting Danger, Disease, and Disaster: Threats to Our Food Security and Food Supply and What We Can Do About It!”

### Genetically Modified Food

PLUS	MINUS	INTERESTING
What are the positive things about GM (genetically modified) foods?	What are the negative things about GM foods?	What are some of the interesting insights about GM food—or any other kinds of human hacks of nature—that came up?