Teacher for Learning Activity 6 – Patchwork reflection

Patch 27 – Promoting Disagreement

Captured paragraph:

A moral aversion towards disagreement, I imagine, may arise in part from the current notion of diversity. By creating an inclusive and respectful classroom, one may assume that inclusion infers agreement and respect denotes compliance. Diversity is good as a motive for completely and unconditionally accepting other persons, but not as a motive for agreeing with their perspective. In other words, kindness is universal but not correctness.

My reflection:

I chose this patch as it really resonates with me personally. As someone who identifies as a female, I find that I often agree even if I do not agree, it might be because I am shy but then when I am in a situation where in addition, I am the minority this tendency to agree is exaggerated even more as I want blend in. I can see how this can happen when my students are conducting group work which then takes me to the Group Think phenomena. I think one way to promote critical thinking in face of such situations is to ask the why question, there is an exercise in design where you are required to do this 5 times, and perhaps if each individual is invited to do so then there have to have a very valid reason to agree or disagree. This also requires setting some ground rules to set up a respectful and trustful environment that individuals feel safe to disagree. One way is to participate anonymously.