

Basic Discussion Ground Rules

1. Listen respectfully, without interrupting.
2. Listen actively and with an ear to understanding others' views. (Don't just think about what you are going to say while someone else is talking.)
3. Leave time for people to respond. Silence creates space for people to process and respond.
4. Criticize ideas, not individuals.
5. Commit to learning, not debating. Comment in order to share information, not to persuade.
6. Avoid blame, speculation, and inflammatory language.
7. Step up & Step Back: If you know you have a strong voice, try to recognize when you are taking up more space than others and step back to allow others to be heard. Conversely, if you typically remain quiet, challenge yourself to step up to be a part of the co-creation process.
8. Avoid assumptions about any member of the class or generalizations about social groups. Do not ask individuals to speak for their (perceived) social group.