



LEADING CLASS

DISCUSSION

ORIENTATION 2024



General Suggestions for discussion

- Set clear ground rules and expectations.
- Ask students to introduce readings, generate questions, critically respond, etc.
- Use small groups and the whole group strategically.
- Model good discussion contributions and behavior.
- Point out good behavior by students.
- End discussions by taking a “group temperature.”
- Pair discussion with brief reflective writing opportunities.

One Minute Reflection

- After a discussion pass out index cards to your students.
- Tell them to take the next minute to discuss the clearest and “muddiest” parts of the class discussion.
- Use this feedback to inform what you need to review in the next class session.

Think-Pair-Share

by Taylor Weeks

- Develop a set of questions or prompts that target key content concepts from the chosen text.
- Describe the purpose of think-pair-share and provide discussion guidelines.
- Model the procedure so students understand the strategy
- Monitor and support students as they work through the method.

Suggestions on discussion ground rules

- Have your own suggestions/expectations for class discussions.
- Encourage students to reflect on productive discussion experiences in other classes and describe how they were productive.
- Some of Dr. McIntyre's suggestions are:
 - Understand classmates may come from a different place than you.
 - Use “I” not “you” statements
 - Do the reading before talking or writing about it.
 - Read generously first, offer criticism second.
 - Assume positive intentions when possible.
 - Claims and arguments require evidence.
 - Respond to critique or being “called out” with attempts to understand- not defensiveness.

Think-Pair-Share Method

- Think- You (the instructor) ask a specific question about the text. The students “think” about what they have read about the topic.
- Pair- Place students with a partner or in small groups.
- Share- Students will share their thoughts with the partner/group. The instructor will expand the “share” into a whole class discussion.

