

# Classroom Discussion

## Skills Enhancement & Tutoring Center

### In general:

At the appropriate time in classroom discussions, don't be frightened to discuss your point of view on a particular topic. The basis of your opinion or argument should be supported from the text, readings, other class discussions, library sources, or your own experience. Make sure that you allow opportunities for your classmates to share their opinions or respond to your comments.

### When your classmates are speaking:

- **Listen** to what others are saying and try to understand the main points they are stating.
- **Open-mindedness** is useful when listening to other classmates' comments or opinions and will help you become more knowledgeable on the topic.
- **Notes** can be beneficial while others are speaking to help you remember the key points you wish to discuss.
- **Ask** others to clarify what the meaning behind their comments are if you do not fully understand them.

### When it is your turn to speak:

- **Wait** for a pause or open window to state your opinion. Don't interrupt people when they are in the middle of sharing their main ideas.
- **Summarize** the main points of your comments or discussion.
- **Restate** the author's or reading's main points to indicate your level of understanding of the material.
- **Examples** are useful during a discussion; back up what you are saying with examples from the text, readings, or previous discussions.
- **Give** everyone the chance to participate; leave pauses after your main points during a discussion to provide others the opportunity to give their views.
- **Feedback** is an essential component to an effective discussion. Invite your classmates to respond to your comments and to feel free to discuss if they agree or disagree with them.

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→ *Figuring it out together* →

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