**Using the IF Discussion Approach in E-Discussions**

**Overview**

Over the course of the semester we are going to continue our discussions by using the online discussion platform. Each week students will co-facilitate an exploratory discussion. The aim of these discussions is to better understand the subject matter through collaborative learning and divergent thinking.

*Facilitation Schedule*

Week 1, Dates, Name 1 and Name 2, Topic TBD

Week 2, Dates, Name 1 and Name 2, Topic TBD

Week 3, Dates, Name 1 and Name 2, Topic TBD

Week 4, Dates, Name 1 and Name 2, Topic TBD

Week 5, Dates, Name 1 and Name 2, Topic TBD

Week 6, Dates, Name 1 and Name 2, Topic TBD

Week 7, Dates, Name 1 and Name 2, Topic TBD

*The Process*



*The Discussion Facilitator*



As we have already mentioned elsewhere, the role of facilitator is not to teach or lead discussants to a particular conclusion. The IF Discussion approach seeks out divergent thinking through “surrounding the topic” (see handout) and encourages participants to assume the perspective of others.

For a more detailed account on how to facilitate exploratory discussion online, please refer to

[The Guidebook for Student-Facilitated Discussion in Online Courses, Student Edition](https://1e534t15m04h2znqeo4blk1d-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/StudentGuidebookWEB.pdf)

*The Discussion Participant*

Participating in an online discussion is not always as simple as it seems. Oftentimes the process feels unrewarding. Discussants post one-off statements and rarely do they respond to or build on the ideas of others. We have developed a high standard of participation in online courses. For example, in our process the role of the discussant is to:



What can discussion participants do to help achieve these goals?



How do you craft a good discussion post?



If you would like to know more about how to incorporate student-facilitated discussions into your classroom, and you’d like to see these grading rubrics, check out:

[The Guidebook for Student-Facilitated Discussion in Online Courses, Instructor Edition](https://1e534t15m04h2znqeo4blk1d-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/InstructorGuidebookWEB.pdf)