

## IF Facilitation Process Instructions

In WISe 101 one of your goals will be to explore the theme of wisdom; specifically, what does it mean to be wise. You will accomplish this through an on-going, collaborative process with a small group of your classmates using a facilitated discussion technique led by you and your peers. The faculty of WISe 101 have worked with the Interactivity Foundation (IF) to develop this innovative pedagogical method as a part of this First Year Seminar as a way to empower your voice, responsibility, and engagement in your academic career—asking you to be an active collaborator in your education. The core of the IF process is to build your communication and critical thinking skills, specifically learning to take leadership roles effectively, work interdependently within groups, explore seemingly disparate sources and perspectives, and engage in divergent thinking. Building off course texts and individuals' ideas, groups are encouraged to see the topic of wisdom from many different perspectives and to think deeply about the implications of the diverse perspectives and how they relate to each other. This semester-long facilitation process will culminate in a final project that will showcase your group's vision of what it means to be wise that reflects the diversity and depth of your group's discussions.

### Prompt

The issue that you will be exploring during your IF discussions is "wisdom." Everyone wants to be wise, but what does it mean, and how do we get there? What are the relationships among being smart, working hard, being good, and being wise? What's the relationship between being successful and being wise? Do you have to be old to be wise? Does being an expert make you wise? These are the kinds of questions we want you to explore. Of course, there's no right answer, and that's the point. Throughout the semester you will be reading/watching/listening to a number of texts we think present profound insights that will help invigorate and deepen IF discussions. Your job will be to connect ideas from the texts to your own emerging perspectives on wisdom.

### IF Facilitation

On Fridays our class will be dedicated to this discussion process—called **IF Fridays**. Each week one student from each group will take the role of **Facilitator** who will guide the group in its discussion. Her responsibilities include the following: prepare a plan, meet with the faculty member for coaching prior to the discussion, lead the discussion on IF Friday, type IF Notes recording the group's ideas, and meet with the faculty member afterwards for evaluation. The next week another group member will conduct the facilitation; each group will rotate through its members so that everyone will facilitate 2-3 times over the course of the semester. A key is to remember that your goal as leader of the facilitation is not to steer the group toward one idea, to find THE answer; rather, to help the group explore the possibilities—to uncover and build upon the week's topics/texts and the larger theme of wisdom.

The other members of the group will be **Participants** who are responsible for preparing for the discussion by working with the week's texts, thinking of how they connect to our theme of wisdom, and engaging with the group's discussion critically and collaboratively. We stress critically AND collaboratively because these two concepts are not exclusive of one another. The goal is not to prove your point and win; rather, you are working together to explore the topic honoring each other's perspectives. Therefore, you can be critical and collaborative, enhancing your group's understandings and your progress toward the final project. But to do this work, you must actively work to be engaged with the texts, the ideas, and each other. If done with openness and depth, the IF discussions can be a very effective way to produce quality work and provide a rewarding experience, building successful and lasting relationships.

The following lists the requirements for the IF Facilitator process:

- **A Pre-Meeting with Faculty** that you will arrange several days before your IF Friday. For this meeting, you will come with your week's texts completed, plan prepared, and questions for coaching.
- **IF Friday:** prepared and ready to go by 9:05.
  - Set Up Group Spaces (5 minutes)
  - Group Facilitation (35 minutes)
    - day's topic (30 minutes)
    - connect to wisdom theme (5 minutes)
  - Class Debrief and Announcements (10 minutes)
- **A Post-Meeting with Faculty** that you will arrange for a time within the week after your IF Friday. Before your meeting you should have your IF Notes typed and self-evaluation completed for a deconstruction of your facilitation experience.
- **IF Notes**—distributed to group Wednesday by 8am—these will record the ideas of the week's topic as well as show the building of the over-arching theme of wisdom.

When planning your IF facilitation, use the IF Student Guide Wiki as a resource <http://studentguide.interactivityfoundationwiki.wikispaces.net/> or use the IF Toolbox on WesPortal for activity ideas.

## Grading

**Your IF component of WISe 101 is worth 15% of your grade; you will be graded on the 2 following areas:**

- 2 discussions as a **Facilitator** (this includes your pre-meeting, facilitation, post-meeting, IF notes, and all forms). First, you will facilitate alone; the second time, you may do it with a partner or alone (at the discretion of the faculty). During your second facilitation, we would like you to try new facilitation techniques, to get creative with your style and prompts. Working with a partner may help you venture into new areas of possibilities and think outside your "normal" box and comfort zone. If you will be working with a partner, how you work with your partner is up to the two of you: you can each take one half of the discussion taking notes for each other; you can separate into a few sections moving back and forth; you can tag- team the entire discussion; or find another possibility. It is up to you both; work with your individual facilitation styles, the topic, and your imaginations.

If English is your second language, you may wish to ask a member of your group to serve as a scribe for your IF notes.

If you serve as a scribe, be aware that 1) you should not become the de facto facilitator of the day - record the IF notes only, and 2) you should still work to involve yourself in the discussion (do not pull back out of the discussion). Also, be sure that if more than one person utilizes a scribe that you rotate the recording role so that the work is spread evenly and all members get to participate fully in the discussions throughout the semester.

- 10 discussions as a **Participant** (this includes your role as a member of the group each week: preparation with assigned texts or exercises, set-up for IF, effective discussion (quality, depth of ideas and divergent thinking) and quantity (not dominating, not silent)), helping other members in their discussion input, and working to create a space of sanctuary. This portion of the grade will be based on the following:
  - your faculty member and peer mentor will assess your group membership and discussion on a weekly basis
  - 2 peer evaluations (the averaged score from your peers will be taken into account in your grade. When assessing your peers, revisit your group's contract to evaluate based on your group's goals and responsibilities)

At mid-semester, your faculty will give a summary of your progress in the IF component pertaining to your role as a group discussion member. These initial grades will be an evaluation that combines observations from the faculty, peer-mentor, and your group members' peer evaluations and will give an overview of your efforts as well as suggested areas of improvement for the remainder of the semester.