

ANALYZE

Use critical thinking to deepen the discussion.

1. Bring an insight from the class texts to the discussion. Explain how the ideas of the author help you understand the topic.
2. Bring in an insight from a past IF or class discussion, and explain how it is relevant.
3. Identify themes or areas of agreement or disagreement in the discussion. Give the group a framework to put the discussion in.

EXPLORE

Think divergently. What's being left out?

1. Ask a question about the topic you don't know the answer to.
2. Practice generosity of spirit. Find the grains of truth in the arguments of others, and ask yourself what the most generous understanding of this argument is.
3. Express an opinion or concern you do not personally hold but which may be important to others and is missing from the discussion. Be convincing.

INCLUDE

Make sure every group member's voice is being fully heard.

1. Encourage a group member to explain more about a comment she made.
2. Ask someone to finish a comment or idea that got cut off. Share this insight with the group.
3. Encourage a group member who is being quiet or seems disconnected to contribute the discussion. Help make sure her point is understood.

AFFIRM

Practice sanctuary.

1. Compliment someone on a good or interesting point.
2. Ask a question that helps you to better understand why someone believes the way that she does.
3. Ask a question to draw out someone else's thinking. Try to understand the point and also the rationale for this point

CLARIFY

Make sure you understand what group members are saying.

1. Ask a clarifying question about something not clear to you.
2. Practice mirroring. Repeat back to someone what you hear her saying for the purpose of better understanding her position.
3. Identify a moment of miscommunication in the discussion and help to clarify the point of confusion.

FOCUS

Keep the discussion on track.

1. Encourage the group to stay on task. Redirect the discussion back to the topic.
2. Diffuse a potentially hostile discussion atmosphere.
3. Engage & bring yourself fully into the conversation. Use positive attention and body language to demonstrate your interest in the discussion.

PLAY

Have fun.

1. Be playful or funny in the discussion. Use this technique in a strategic way to diffuse a tense moment or to move the discussion in a new direction.
2. Imagine and suggest a silly or absurd outer limit to an idea you've proposed.
3. Try to imagine how someone else, not represented in the group discussion, might contribute to the discussion. Share this insight with the group.

BUILD

Build on someone else's idea by being additive, generative instead of limiting or qualifying.

1. Practice "Yes...and" in the discussion. Instead of rejecting an idea ("Yes...but"), try to build on it even if you disagree with it.
2. Explain in the discussion how a previous idea led you to a new insight.
3. Use storytelling in a constructive way. Enhance the discussion by offering a short personal example that illustrates a point made in the discussion or helps to move the discussion into a new exploratory space.

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