

Session 1: Facilitating Effective Discussions, 8:45 to 9:15am

Rank Order Activity

Rank the following 5 attributes of classroom discussion from most to least important. Make some short notes to explain your thinking.

Everyone Participates

All students participate actively in the discussion (this can include active listening).

Diversity of Opinions

Multiple viewpoints on a given issue are expressed and defended.

Appropriate Use of Evidence

Students support their opinions with evidence that is relevant and accurate.

Minimal Teacher Involvement

Students lead and direct the vast majority of the discussion, and the instructor only intervenes to facilitate or mediate when necessary.

Respectful Environment

Students follow the rules of classroom etiquette and treat each other with respect.

Instructions

1. Rank discussion attributes from most important (1) to least important (5). Jot down some notes if needed. **(4 minutes)**
2. Divide the table into two groups of four.
3. Assign a timekeeper (person who has been a teacher the longest).
4. Take turns sharing order and reasoning. Person with the most recent birthday goes first. **(2 minutes each — 8 min total)**
5. Discuss and compare — What differences do you notice? What accounts for these differences? Does anyone want to change the order they started with? **(3 minutes)**