

FYS Class Discussion Expectations

First year seminar class discussions should be interactive. Instructor prompting should not be necessary; students ought to feel empowered to, eager to, and able to take charge of a discussion with minimal instructor guidance, direction, and focus. The class discussions ought focus primarily on: exchanging views on the content of text and web readings' facts, conclusions, reasoning, examples, consequences, and motives.

It is expected, from time-to-time, that students will question, challenge, or not understand what is being stated in readings and/or why certain positions are being taken in these readings. Questions and challenges are welcomed as long as they are phrased civilly and it remains understood that most positions taken in your text and readings come as the result of years of teaching experience, research, and adhering to university policy.

In addition to discussing class readings, students are encouraged to raise other individual or collective questions or problems arising in your experience, observations, or ruminating that an open discussion might clear up, resolve, or add to classmate understanding. Class discussion hopefully can be a learning experience as well as an enjoyable, civil social experience.