

Leading/Facilitating Class Dialogue

It's here! Time to use all the speaking skills you have been developing and honing at this point in the semester and use them to lead the class as a presenter and facilitator for the issue you have chosen. Here is what you will do.

Before you begin writing: Research an issue that you care about (remember you can't fake passion) and become a "mini-expert" and educate the class on the topic you have chosen. You will consult a minimum of eight sources, four representing each side of the debate. Remember an "issue" implies debate and each side of the debate must be represented fairly.

Your Presentation: Once you have gathered and read through the sources you are going to base your presentation on, you need to write and present your formal "position statement" to the class. You will use the same "Preparing your Statement" format we used for our Polygamy vs. Monogamy deliberative dialogue: The format is outlined below

Preparing Your Statement

Your statement must contain three essential elements:

Stake: How directly does this issue affect your life? What do you have to gain or lose from your position within this issue?

Source: What have other scholars or researchers said about this issue? What statistics, findings or comments support, refute or generally inform your position? (In other words, out of the eight sources you consulted, which source did you find the most convincing and why?)

Statement of Position: Where do you stand on the issue? Are you firm in your position, or are you ultimately undecided? What values have brought you to this position?

Solution: What do you think should be done? What kind of a solution would you find to be fair?

Here is how you will structure your presentation: Shoot for ten minutes

- 1) Tell us what your topic is and why you chose/care about it
- 2) Tell us what the problem is or question at issue in regard to your topic, in other words, what exactly is the debate?
- 3) Read/recite your position statement to the class
- 4) Talk about your point of view/frame of reference/experiences in regard to this issue that influence your perspective.
- 5) Talk about what assumptions you have in regard to this issue that you might be overlooking or taking for granted in regard to the issue.
- 6) Summarize the information you gathered regarding the data/facts/observations/experiences of both sides of the issue you are examining.
- 7) What are some of the concepts/theories/definitions/principles/models we need to be familiar with regarding both sides of your issue?
- 8) What is the purpose of the thinking/goal/objective regarding both sides of your issue?
- 9) What are the conclusions and solutions each opposing side has in regard to your issue?
- 10) What are the implications and consequences of each solution presented?

Here is how you will construct your facilitation: Now that you have presented us with the basic background information regarding your topic and the controversy it has created you will now lead the class in a discussion based on what you presented. Here you need to have **two to four really good discussion questions to ask us**. Your goal is to hear everyone's voice. Don't let certain people dominate the discussion and don't let the quieter ones in the class go unheard. **Shoot for a ten minute discussion here.**

On the day of your presentation you will provide me and your classmates (there are 26 of us) with a handout that has the following information:

- Your outline that hits on the ten criteria outlined in the facilitation/presentation guidelines, including your discussion questions.
- Your position statement.
- Your works cited page documenting in correct APA or MLA formatting the sources you consulted.

Here is how you will be evaluated for your Presentation:

- The student demonstrated fluid transitions between each point during his/her presentation?
 - 10/ _____
- Did the student present the information fairly and balanced?
 - 10/ _____
- It is clear the student is passionate about his/her topic?
 - 10/ _____
- It is clear the student put in lots of effort for her/his presentation?
 - 10/ _____
- The student did not go significantly over or under the time limit?
 - 10/ _____
- The student's discussion questions were composed well enough to spark a dialogue?
 - 10/ _____
- The student did a nice job of getting everyone to participate? In other words one person did not dominate the conversation and the quieter ones did not go unheard?
 - 10/ _____
- The student provided a handout to me and the rest of the class outlining his/her presentation?
 - 10/ _____
- It is clear that student's efforts match his/her abilities?
 - 10/ _____
- It is clear the student has improved with her/his speaking abilities over the course of the semester?
 - 10/ _____
 - Total 100/ _____

Written work evaluation:

- Student’s outline hits all ten components outlined in assignment description?
 - 10/ _____
- Student’s sources are clearly cited in outline and referenced in correct formatting in Works cited section?
 - 20/ _____
- Student’s position statement is included in the outline?
 - 10/ _____
 - Total 40/ _____

You may or may not have noticed the “miscellaneous section” highlighted in the grade book? This will be the section that fills in those sixty points. Due to the nature of this assignment and our innate tendency to get lazy as listeners, you will also be evaluated based on the following criteria as a participant in the dialogue sessions of your classmates. After everyone has presented I will be grading you and your conduct/participation based on the following criteria:

Student was present in body and mind (i.e. not absent and paying attention in class)?
20/ _____

Student did not dominate/nor hide from discussions? 10/ _____

Student was respectful during the discussions? 20/ _____

Student’s comments added significantly to discussion and overall success of the assignment at large.
10/ _____

Total 60/ _____

Your presentation/facilitation, written work, and overall participation are worth a grand total of 200 points. Good luck and let me know if you have any questions or need further clarification on anything.