

SAMPLE NORMS FOR CLASSROOM DISCUSSIONS

ESTABLISH AND MODEL NORMS FOR CLASSROOM DISCUSSION THAT ARE THE SAME FOR EVERYONE, INCLUDING:

- *We listen to a person's entire idea without interrupting.*
- *Input from everyone in the class is valuable and necessary.*
- *We notice when a classmate hasn't been heard, and try to help get his or her opinion heard in ways that are respectful.*
- *When someone finishes speaking, we ask questions if we don't understand what he or she has said.*
- *When someone misunderstands us, we respectfully make an effort to correct the misunderstanding.*

* Make sure these norms are emphasized equally with ELL and mainstream students, and perhaps focus on a different one in each discussion until a classroom culture which respects these norms has been established. Highlight how important these skills are outside of the classroom as well as inside. Consider getting students' input on other norms that will allow all to contribute equally, regardless of confidence, popularity, status, language proficiency, content knowledge, etc.

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