

Handout 2: Norms for Classroom Discussion

Basic Rules

- Everyone participates, no one dominates
- One speaker; no side conversations
- Active listening
- No non-verbals (e.g., eye-rolling)

What to say if you don't understand the speaker?

- I am not sure I follow, exactly
- I know what I mean by the word “_____” but I'm not sure I know what *you* mean...
- Could you help me understand your thinking when you said _____

What to say if you don't agree with the speaker?

- I think I see it differently....
- I think I have a different take on this
- I am not sure I follow the logic of your thinking. The way I see it is....

Questions the teacher might ask me:

- Can you restate what _____ just said?
- What do you think about what _____ just said?
- Do you agree or disagree with what _____ just said?