

Lesson Name : 38

Lesson Title : Diverse Perspectives in a Group Discussion

Course Name : English 2 Part 1 [Honors]

Task Id : 51651450

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Essential Instruction



Exploring diverse perspectives gives us new ways of seeing.

Read the poem "[The Blind Men and the Elephant](#)" by John Godfrey Saxe.

Group discussions are valuable because they allow us to hear different perspectives on a topic. Hearing different perspectives may change your opinion or outlook on the topic or it may strengthen beliefs you already have. The important thing is to keep an open mind and give your full attention to each member of the group.

1. Consider all perspectives – listen to each member of the group and do not automatically reject someone's beliefs or opinions just because they are different from your own.
2. Evaluate perspectives – when considering someone else's perspective on a topic, evaluate whether what he or she said is fair, true, and supported by evidence. If it is, the next step may be for you to reconsider your own beliefs or opinions. It is also possible that both of you are correct – perhaps there is no right or wrong answer about this particular topic. If, however, what the other person has said is not true, fair, or unsupported by evidence you may disagree, being sure to do so politely.
3. Summarize – it is often helpful to summarize what each person in the group has said. Try to use I statements when you do this. After summarizing, you may find that you agree with the other person more than you first thought.
4. Remain respectful – do not confuse the person with the words he or she is speaking.