

How to Lead a Shared-Inquiry Discussion

- 1.** Lead slowly.
- 2.** Listen carefully to students' comments. Listen to what students mean as well as what they say.
- 3.** If you have trouble remembering the threads of the discussion or who said what, take notes or make a chart that looks like the students' seating arrangement.
- 4.** Encourage students to share ideas with each other, not just with you.
- 5.** Articulate the links between students' ideas as well as the links between their ideas and the divergent question being discussed.
- 6.** Do not be content with short answers. Say to the student, "Tell us more."
- 7.** Turn to the text for evidence to support what a student says.
- 8.** Be open to challenges that students might raise to assumptions you might make in your questions.
- 9.** Make sure that all students contribute.
- 10.** Ask follow-up questions frequently.
- 11.** Do not state your own opinion.
- 12.** Ask divergent questions, not leading questions (see #11).
- 13.** Use reflective listening techniques.
- 14.** Remember that your role as a discussion leader is to be a fellow inquirer, not an instructor.