

Rules for Shared-Inquiry Discussions

- 1.** The teacher is a fellow inquirer, not an instructor, and does not state opinions or evaluate those expressed by students.
- 2.** The teacher or discussion leader asks divergent questions to which there are many “right” answers.
- 3.** Only people who have read the material may take part in the discussion.
- 4.** The discussion covers only the material that everyone has read.
- 5.** Discussion leaders may only ask questions, not answer them.
- 6.** Students sit in a circle and speak directly to one another.
- 7.** Speakers use passages from the text as evidence to support or challenge points of view.
- 8.** No one can cite third-party opinions about the material (“Einstein once wrote about this subject and he says that . . .”) without backing up the outside opinion with evidence from the written material.
- 9.** Teachers or discussion leaders use reflective listening techniques that make students feel comfortable and confident enough to express their ideas.
- 10.** Students save their personal questions until the end of the discussion.
- 11.** Each student may occasionally “pass” when asked to respond to a question (but not too often).