

Rules of Engagement: Guidelines for Discussions

- Come with something *interesting* to say. Have at least 3 comments and 2 questions about each reading.
- Have the essay and a pen in front of you.
- Relate comments directly to the text.
- Relate comments to personal experience sparingly.
- Direct comments and questions to each other--not to me.
- Use language that encourages discussion:
 - *I see what you mean.*
 - *I never thought of it that way.*
 - *I'd like to build on that....*
- Don't be afraid to disagree (even with me), but do so productively:
 - *I read that differently....*
 - *I see what you mean, but...*
 - *Another way of looking at it is....*
- Try not to repeat what's already been said.
- Make connections to other readings.
- If you're shy, try to force yourself to say SOMETHING each class.
- If you didn't do the reading, keep your mouth shut. Don't pretend.
- If you're assertive, make sure others have time to talk too.



adapted from Ramsey