

Socialist Feminism Reading Group: Participation Guide

1. **We are committed to providing an environment where all comrades can participate.**
    a. We meet in an ADA-compliant meeting room on the ground floor of The Festival Center in the Adams Morgan neighborhood of DC each month. There are multi-stall gendered restrooms, with a wheelchair accessible stall in each, on the same floor. To make accessibility requests (e.g., for ASL translation, child care), create a help desk ticket at reddesk.mdcdsa.org; for questions or comments, email the accessibility team at accessibility@mdcdsa.org or post in the #accessibility Slack channel. For more info, check out MDC DSA's full (draft) accessibility policy!
    b. We begin our meetings by introducing ourselves to our comrades: please share your name and, if desired, personal pronouns. English has largely gendered pronouns, making inclusive pronoun choices inherently political; for that reason, and to ensure the safety and comfort of trans comrades, inclusive pronouns should be the default. The singular *they* is preferable unless referring to specific individuals with known pronoun preferences, in which case those individual pronouns should be respected. For more info, check out DSA USA's Queer Socialist Working Group's full (draft) memo on inclusive language and pronoun use!

2. **Please park your hobby horse at the gate.**
    a. We all have topics we love to talk about, but we need to keep comments relevant to the readings up for discussion.

3. **One person talks at a time.**
    a. We use a modified progressive stack process. If you're new to progressive stack, check out DSA USA's Guidelines for Respectful Discussion!
        i. Modification: a raised index finger means you have something to say directly relevant to the speaker's comment.
    b. Be respectful of others' experiences and perspectives.
        i. Not everyone will share your preconceived ideas.
        ii. Listen and be ready to learn something new from your comrades.*
    c. Interrupting, talking over, or otherwise exercising dominance over one another is not good socialist feminist praxis.

4. **Limit comments to 2 minutes (or 3, 4, 5 minutes -we are flexible)**
    a. The moderator has the right to redirect or cut short the comments if necessary.
    b. We all have brilliant things we want to say. Let's give everyone a chance.

***** *"Don't dismiss or deflect an issue raised by members of a marginalized group to which you don't belong. Often, what makes you uncomfortable contradicts what you've been told as someone who belongs to the privileged group. In this case, it's best to pay attention to other perspectives."*

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