

Make sure members can commit time and attention (Rosalio)

Book should be interesting (Diana H)

Readers should be engaged (Diana H)

For book clubs, the advice I'd give would be to begin with an icebreaker to help make everyone comfortable and less awkward. Choose a book that will have everyone interested while also having them step out of their comfort zone to learn something new. For facilitators, they should have some topics and questions to bring up to get the conversation started and to keep it from becoming silent. There should also be no interrupting or putting down anyone's thoughts because it is different from yours or anyone else's thoughts. Hearing everyone's thoughts will teach people different perspectives and ideas. -Kevin

I think that one of the most important things is to have everyone agree on what book is going to be read. I like the idea of every member choosing a book, presenting why they chose it, and then having everyone vote on what they would like to read. If it's possible to read more than one book, it can be decided to read the other books presented, or maybe have a new vote when the time comes. It's better to be prepared so that the book group works well. (Ashley)

The group has to be aware that they need to be respectful towards each other's opinions. There shouldn't be any harsh debating, but a calm respectful one - Yaminah

Pick the right genre. If you hate reading non-fiction, you will have a hard time reading it unless your goal is to challenge yourself. Suggest a genre that you think everyone in the group will enjoy, not just you. The decision process should be democratic - Yingrong

Ultimately, a book club can be anything you want but a group agreement or contract is important in order to get the most out of the sessions. - Luis

When you're reading the books, you want to have open discussions in the group and ask open ended questions to each other, as well as thought provoking questions that may lead the conversation somewhere else. (Megan N)

To start a book club, it is helpful to have a leader to facilitate discussion and ensure that every one who wants to speak, can. By listening to and learning from each other, there is unlimited opportunity for growth. (Rachel)

Advice I would give is to try to make everyone comfortable with each other. The first few meetings can be about getting to know each other, learning about each other's likes and dislikes, and finding a book to read. After the first meetings, that's when they should get into the book. If it's a bit boring at first, they can try to change their tactics and try to create a conversation that connects them to the book. Reading and talking about just the book might be boring, at least for me. I usually enjoy talking about the book and connecting to the outside world. (Weiting)

It is a group activity so remember to include everyone in the discussion. - Fatou

My advice for someone starting a book club is to gather people that you know who like to read. Then pick a book that everyone might be interested in so that everyone can be engaged. Set dates and times to discuss the book. Everyone should be respectful of others

The best advice I can give for a book group is choosing the right book for yourself and the group. Pick a book that you find interesting and something that will have room for debates in a book group. – Demetri

My advice for a book club is to figure what genre of books you are trying to read, then figure out who would be interested in to join, details about when you and where you all meet should be put in place, also try to figure out how you all can agree or choose on a book to read, from there you can discuss.- Peter