

Group Discussions: this is what everyone needs to do to have a working group.

In an ideal group EVERYONE has participated significantly and, more or less, equally.

The pace allows for clarity and thoughtfulness, but not boredom.

There's a sense of balance and order: focus is on one speaker at a time and one idea at a time.

There's an attempt to resolve questions and issues before moving on to new ones.

There's a clear sense of what the group has covered and how.

Comments are not lost, the loud do not dominate, the shy are encouraged.

Students are animated, sincere and helpful.

The discussion is lively without being "hyper" or superficial.

Everyone is clearly understood. Those who are not are urged to repeat and/or speak up.

Students take risks and dig for deep meanings, new insights.

Students back up what they say with examples, quotations, etc.

Students ask each other to back up assertions with proof (if possible).

The text and other approved sources are referred to often!

Remember

You will ask a lot of questions, and not all of them will have easy answers. The emphasis is on discovery rather than conclusion. It's ok not to answer all the questions, if you think of an interesting sidetrack to take.

