

Guidelines for Group Discussion Participants

This is a general set of guidelines for group participants to keep in mind. Realize that there are various roles that you can play in the group discussions, such as:

- Asking questions
- Answering questions
- Supporting others' opinions
- Questioning others' opinions
- Stating facts
- Stating opinions
- Beginning discussion on a new but related topic
- Reiterating something that was already stated

Groups have a task and a socio-emotional aspect to them, so realize that your comments can be categorized into positive and negative task and socio-emotional categories. For example, supportive comments fit into the positive and socio-emotional category. Putting down someone else's comment can be seen as negative and socio-emotional, whereas challenging and questioning others can be positive and task oriented.

It's also important to include other people in the discussion and not dominate discussions with your opinions.

Let your consultant know if you have any specific questions about group discussion behaviors.

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Dr. Esther Yook
Speaking Center Director x. 1166