

Guidelines for Book Group Presentations

Overview

Congratulations—you have finished reading a book with a group of people, and with the help of those people, you have learned to ask questions that deepen your understanding and reach new levels of thinking. It's time to share that understanding and thinking with the rest of us.

The group question work has helped you to meet these course objectives:

- ✓ Apply active reading strategies
- ✓ Demonstrate the ability to make meaning from a variety of academic texts
- ✓ Demonstrate an awareness of how reading can be relevant, important, and enjoyable

Instructions

For ten minutes, your group will discuss certain aspects of your book. You will use one, two, or three of your favorite "inductive" questions to organize your discussion. Gradewise, the presentation is worth 2 sets of weekly questions.

One person will lead the discussion. The leader is responsible for:

1. Giving a discussion goal. The goal can include answering your questions as thoroughly as possible, addressing some of the bigger themes you hope your discussion will get to, telling the audience about what's important about this book, or a mix of these.
2. Involving everyone in the discussion in a positive way.
3. Responding to comments or questions to encourage further discussion.
4. Revisiting the discussion goal at the end of the ten minutes.

The discussion participants are responsible for:

1. Having multiple page numbers in the book already marked and directing the audience to them at appropriate moments.
2. Helping to answer the group's questions thoughtfully.
3. Listening and responding to others' comments without the discussion leader prodding you.
4. Giving the group what it needs to meet, or even exceed, its discussion goal!

Someone in the audience will be keeping time for your group, and the instructor will not jump in during your discussion.

Assessment

Group was fully prepared for discussion; asked/answered great questions; explored many compelling ideas for the audience; showed the audience something interesting about their book; used the whole 10 minutes; kept the discussion moving along in a way that felt painless and enjoyable.	Check-plus
Group was mostly prepared for discussion; asked/answered good questions; explored neat ideas for the audience; showed the audience some understanding of their book; used at least 7 minutes of discussion time; kept the discussion moving, but it sometimes seem strained, probably due to unclear goals, questions, or lack of preparation.	Check
Group was not prepared enough for discussion; did not ask/answer good questions; explored only one or two ideas for the audience; showed the audience little understanding of their book; used 5-7 minutes of discussion time; allowed the discussion to plod along because of unclear goals, questions, or lack of preparation.	Check-minus
Group was not prepared for discussion; showed the audience very little understanding of their book; used less than 5 minutes of discussion time; discussion was awkward, strained, or did not happen at all.	Zero