

# Class Discussions

*Class discussion provides a space for students to communicate differing views and use textual evidence to support or refute claims.*

## KEY POINTS

- The goal of classroom discussion is not only to promote comprehension of a shared text, but also to encourage students to listen to, understand, and exchange their assessments of a text.
- As a learning method, classroom discussions are generally more fun and interactive than simply listening to a teacher lecture or taking a written test.
- Class discussions encourage learning through active participation, comprehension, and listening. They help students to think, solve problems, listen to others, and analyze the ideas of other students, all while backing up their own thoughts with evidence from past class teachings.

## TERM

- comprehension  
The act of understanding.

## EXAMPLE

- Here are some questions that might be helpful for class discussions: What is the author saying in this text? What register does the author use in presenting their argument? Does the author present rhetoric that is based on pathos, ethos, or logos? What are the stakes of what the author is saying? Why does the author think it matters? Is there any special terminology that the author uses? Are there key words that are repeated? How does this text relate to other things that have been read in this class? Did you like the text? Why or why not?

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Classroom discussion is a form of assessment that takes place during the learning process to help the teacher and student understand information presented. Class discussion is often used together with other forms of assessment, such as written response, selected response, and performance

assessment. Class discussion is a teaching technique used in conjunction with lectures and individual study.



### Classroom Discussion

This class discussion is engaging.

#### The Purpose of Discussion

As a learning method, classroom discussions are generally more fun and interactive than simply listening to a teacher lecture or taking a written test. When presenting a question to a class of students, teachers can open up the classroom for discussion and can mediate while students come up with their own conclusions. Class discussions encourage learning through active participation, comprehension, and listening. They help students to think, solve problems, listen to others, and analyze the ideas of other students, all while backing up their own thoughts with evidence from past class teachings. Discussions also encourage the practice of informal oral communication, which is a much-needed skill later in life.

When participating in a class discussion, the following strategies are effective:

- Try to stay on topic.
- Try to show an understanding of the subject matter by using vocabulary appropriately.

- Use concepts and vocabulary learned in the classroom to add weight to your opinions and ideas.
- Try to build upon the ideas of others.
- Always be respectful to others, especially if someone in the discussion offers an opinion that differs from your own.
- Try to provide constructive criticism to others regarding their thoughts, comments, or work.