

Class Discussion Procedures and Expectations:

I. Teacher Commitments. I promise:

- To treat you with respect.
- To value you and your opinion.
- To work as hard and well as I can.
- To do all I can to make being in our classroom and having me as a teacher a fun, valuable, and effective experience for you.
- To be available to help you if you are having problems before and after school.
- To stay positive and to NEVER give up on you.
- To prepare you to successfully transition to success in college.

II. Student Commitments.

1. Discussion will be orderly with only one person speaking at a time.
2. No person will denigrate (put down) another, no matter what opinion he/she expresses → there must be an understanding that class discussions will often be lively with students having different and perhaps controversial points of view.
 - Disagreement with one's point of view is acceptable and even encouraged.
 - Personal attacks will not be allowed.
3. The expectation is that all students analyze the topic at hand and participate. Students must be prepared each day to discuss the current topic at hand.
4. It is suggested that you jot down ideas (possibly in notebook) to help organize your thoughts.
5. Discussions will be teacher-led, student-led, and group student-led.
6. If you do not understand what another person has said, ask for clarification.
7. Think before you speak so you will have an understanding of what you say and you can defend it.
8. An attempt will always be made for everyone to have a chance to speak.
9. Disagreements should be reframed in constructive ways. For example:

Instead of Saying:	Say:
a. That doesn't make sense at all.	I don't think I agree. Could you explain?
b. Wow! Is that ever dumb!	I disagree because . . . or I see things differently because . . .
c. That is not what the teacher asked us to do.	I think we should check our notes and the original assignment.
d. You are totally wrong.	It might be better to . . .
e. That really offends me!	I understand that feeling, but consider this . . .