# Sample Ground Rules for Discussion

* Listen actively and attentively, without interrupting.
* Ask for clarification if you are confused: “lit check” an unfamiliar term; don’t assume you know others’ thinking or motivations.
* Challenge one another, but do so respectfully: critique ideas, not people.
* Do not offer opinions without supporting evidence relevant to the class; share your learning with peers
* Take responsibility for the quality of the discussion: build on one another’s comments; work toward shared understanding.
* Share discussion time equitably; allow everyone space to speak.
* Speak from your own experience, without generalizing: avoid “we” or “everyone.”
* If you are bothered by anything said during discussion, acknowledge it immediately.
* Do not implicitly or explicitly marginalize a position or experience in the discussion.
* Do not implicitly or explicitly center one position or experience in the discussion.
* Don’t expect any individuals to speak on behalf of their perceived or assumed gender, ethnic group, class, status, etc.

Modified from: The Eberly Center for Teaching Excellence, Carnegie Mellon University (<https://www.cmu.edu/teaching/solveproblem/strat-dontparticipate/groundrules.pdf>) and “Creating a Positive Classroom Enironment for Diversity,” University of California, Los Angeles (<https://equity.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/CreatingaPositiveClassroomClimateWeb-2.pdf>).