# Discussion Facilitation

**Assessment Description**

Once during the course, you will facilitate a 20-minute discussion based on the week’s reading(s)/viewing(s). (**Note:** This does not include the brief content videos Megan & Michelle have created for the week, only external readings or videos.) As a facilitator, you will stimulate group discussion by developing and asking at least one thought-provoking question per required reading/viewing, and then moderating the discussion (such as by calling on those who wish to speak and keeping an eye on the time). You should include a brief summary, no more than 5 minutes, of the reading(s)/viewing(s) at the beginning of your discussion; this introduction will be in addition to the 20-minute discussion, for a total of 25 minutes of class time. You will receive peer feedback on both your questions and your facilitation skills following the discussion.

You will collaborate with the other facilitators signed up for that week to develop a brief summary and create a set of quality discussion questions. These questions will be developed together; then, each facilitator will use the questions to independently conduct a discussion with some of their peers. The questions you ask should require your peers to think critically about the key take-aways from the reading(s)/viewing(s). Each question should meet the four criteria for quality discussion questions: high-level; divergent; structured; and straight-forward. Please refer to the materials for Week 1, particularly the handouts Question Wording Chart and What Questions Engage Students to help you meet each of these criteria. You should also consider ways to provide the questions to your peers for reference during the discussion, balancing the need to see one another as we converse!

**Intended Learning Outcomes**

1. Facilitate and engage in discussion on theory and good practices in teaching and learning
2. Reflect on key scholarly topics of relevance to post-secondary education

**Due Date**

You will sign up for a synchronous (live) session and its associated topic in the first week of class; this will be the day you facilitate discussion.

**Completion Checklist**

* Sign up for a date and topic following the live session on Jan. 14
* Connect with your peers who have also signed for that date and topic
* Complete all of the required readings/external viewings for your week
* Co-create a facilitation plan that includes:
  + A brief summary of the reading(s)/viewing(s) – **no more than 5 minutes**
  + At least one quality discussion question per reading – **meeting all 4 criteria**
  + A method to share the questions for everyone’s reference during discussion
* Submit your facilitation plan to Avenue by 9am on the Wednesday before your facilitated discussion
  + Have one facilitator submit the plan, with all group member names included in the file
* Attend the live session and facilitate one of the small group discussions on your chosen day!
* Receive feedback from your peers and reflect on your questions and facilitation skills