

Ground Rules for Discussion

What is It	What Does It Mean	What Does it Look Like
<p>Listen to understand</p>	<p>Hearing not only the words but the meaning that fellow discussion participants intend to convey</p>	<p>One person speaking at a time Restating the positions of others in a way he or she agrees with Letting people complete their thoughts instead of jumping in when they pause</p>
<p>Respect the views of others</p>	<p>Recognizing the legitimacy of another person's view point, even if you may not agree with it</p>	<p>Taking the needs of others into account when offering positions and solutions Acknowledging the validity of different perspectives, even when disagreeing Speaking in a respectful and civil tone; never showing contempt</p>
<p>Suspend judgment</p>	<p>Becoming aware of how our assumptions influence our judgments of other people and of other ideas and being open to new ideas</p>	<p>Making our thinking and our reasons explicit when stating our positions Inquiring into the reasons behind a perspectives rather than judging it Remaining open to new ideas rather than stonewalling on specific positions</p>
<p>Speak for yourself in service of the group</p>	<p>Speak from your own experience in a way that honors your unique perspective while still advancing the overall purpose of the group</p>	<p>Using your fair share of air time (i.e. avoid both dominating and withdrawing) Speaking from your own experience, even when representing others in a process Do not be afraid to challenge the prevailing thinking of the group</p>