

Contract for Discussion

Discussion is an important part of Econ 6e. I have chosen readings that are interesting and central to the main ideas of the course. The readings are rich and will provide you with opportunities to explore the course's main ideas. During discussion, I ask students to interpret the meaning of the article before they judge its importance and relevance of a reading. I ask students to agree to the following contract and agree to abide by it.

The Discussion Leader agrees to:

1. Read the material carefully.
2. Prepare well-thought out questions and provide them to students in advance.
3. Pose questions carefully during class.
4. Develop the discussion in depth.
5. Strive for answers.
6. Avoid needlessly difficult and technical terms.
7. Listen intently.
8. Involve each student.
9. Confine myself to asking questions so that the discussion does not turn into a lecture.
10. Evaluate the discussion in a formal way.

Students agrees to:

1. Read the material carefully.
2. Offer evidence from the reading to support their answers.
3. Not refer to "outside" sources of information unless everyone has access to them.
4. Listen carefully to each other and to the questions being asked.
5. Ask for clarification of any point that they do not understand.
6. Respectfully challenge answers that they do not agree with.
7. Be willing to change their minds if someone provides a good reason for doing so.
8. Answer questions posed by the leader before making other points.
9. Not repeat a point that someone else has made.
10. Be as brief as possible. Have a point, make it, and then stop talking.