

ENGLISH FOR ACADEMIC COMMUNICATION

ULAB 1112

GROUP DISCUSSION

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GROUP DISCUSSION



OBJECTIVES

By the end of this unit, you should be able to:

1. Communicate effectively in a group discussion.
2. Express viewpoints in a clear, effective and organised way.
3. Ask relevant questions and give useful feedback.
4. Respond appropriately to the opinions of others.



Topics



Definition of Group Discussion



Reasons for Discussion



Benefits in Group Discussion



Language Functions in Discussion



Useful Tips in Group Discussion



Panel Discussion

Definition of Group Discussion

- Group Discussion is a modern method of assessing students personality as well as their communicative skills.
- It is both a technique and a comprehensive tool to judge the worthiness of students and their appropriateness for the task requirement.



Reasons for Discussion

Discussions will help you to:

- ❖ Express opinion
- ❖ Share ideas
- ❖ Respond appropriately
- ❖ Think Critically
- ❖ Listen to other people's ideas
- ❖ Identify solutions to a particular problem
- ❖ Make decisions
- ❖ Increase your confidence in speaking

Benefits in Group Discussion

- Stimulate thinking in a new way
- Expand knowledge
- Understand your strengths and weaknesses
- Reveal true personality and crystallize qualities of leadership

Benefits of Group Discussion

- Provides chance to expose
- Enhance language proficiency skills
- Improve academic and general knowledge
- Brush up leadership skills
- Develop an efficient team working skills



Language Functions in Discussion

1. Asking for an opinion

- What do you think of/about....?
- What are your views on....?
- How do you feel about....?
- Have you got any comments on..?

2. Giving an opinion

- In my opinion.....
- As far as I'm concerned.....
- Well, I must say that....
- I'm convinced that.....
- With all due respect....

Language Functions in Discussion

Asking about agreement and disagreement

- Do/ Don't you agree?
- Wouldn't you say so?
- You'd agree with (name), wouldn't you?
- I wonder if you would agree...

Emphasizing a point

- It seems to me that the real issues is....
- I think the basic cause is...
- As far as I can see, the main problem is....
- In my opinion, the basic issue is....

Language Functions in Discussion

Stating priorities

- In my opinion, the main thing is...
- As I see it, the most important points is...
- I feel that the most important consideration is...

Participating in a discussion and asking questions

- I have a question I'd like to ask.
- I have a point I'd like to make.
- This question is for (name of the panelist)
- May/ Could I ask a question?
- May/ Could I say something here?

Useful Tips in Group Discussion

- **Be assertive**: An assertive person is direct , honest careful about not hurting others ‘self-respect’.
- **Listen patiently**: listening to another person is one way of showing appreciation.
- **Use the right language** : Words can make friends & right words at the right time can give the best results.

Useful Tips in Group Discussion

- **Be analytical and fact-oriented** : It is necessary to make relevant points which can be supported with facts and analyzed logically.
- **Accept criticism**: If any member of the group criticizes or disapproves a point, it is unwise to get upset or react sharply.
- **Show leadership ability**: A group discussion also evaluates your leadership qualities.

Group Discussion Guidelines

A group discussion usually takes approximately twenty-five minutes. The division of time allocated is as follows:

Introduction by the moderator 3 minutes

- Presentation by each group member 3 minutes

Discussion 5 minutes

- Conclusion by the moderator 3 minutes

Reference

1. **Azian Abd Aziz et.al. (2006) *English for Academic Communication*. Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia: McGraw-Hill.**