

“The discussion was more of a comfortable conversation in a classroom atmosphere.”

“I do not think that I would have understood the books as much reading them on my own as I did with discussion.”

“Throughout this course I have learned that discussions are not for talking about what we know, but rather about what we want to learn. I have also learned that discussions are not effective or valuable unless everyone is willing to contribute. My comments might not be ‘brilliant,’ but they might inspire someone else to think of something important to make connections that they had not thought of before.”

“[I]t really surprised me that we were able to consistently guide ourselves through an entire 50-minute discussion and come up with a thesis for each reading with relatively minimal guidance from the teacher.”

“[Contributions from everyone] allowed for many more perspectives to be discussed during the class and greatly improved the quality of our discussions”

“For me it is a little discouraging when everyone does not speak. It makes it feel like we are there to teach them about what we got out of the reading instead of everyone being on the same level and having something to contribute to the class.”

“I think I finally figured it out. There will never be an opportunity to speak unless you make one.”

I have started noticing that it is easier to find good opportunities to contribute the better prepared that I am.

Because I came prepared and shared in the discussion, I felt more comfortable and class was more enjoyable.

I felt more comfortable speaking today because when I made comments others showed agreement and wanted to hear what I had to say.

I think that it was good that the students who were comfortable speaking let the rest of the class have an opportunity to speak. This really allowed me to join in the conversation in a more effective manner and increased my freedom to participate.

Since we've begun outlining what we want to address beforehand, the discussions have become much more substantial. . . . By organizing what we want to talk about before each class, we have **been a lot** more methodical and thorough in our discussions.

Our class is becoming closer as a group and is able to talk outside of class. This friendlier environment, I feel, has made easier for me to participate more and more.

I think this discussion did a marvelous job of using the reading material, the film, the extra material, and the previous discussion . . . It was like poetry in motion.

I was much more prepared for this discussion and the results were very good. Ironically, most of my contributions had little to do with the notes I actually took. However, the mental state of feeling prepared gave me confidence to make more contributions.