

THE RULES OF “GROUP PROCESS”

A Protocol for Harkness Table Discussions

- All participants sit at the Harkness Table, including the instructor who is a facilitator (as needed), but not a discussant.
- Participants read/review the text (either beforehand, perhaps as homework, or immediately in advance of the discussion).
- Everyone has a responsibility to participate.
- No one interrupts.
- No side conversations. If you have something to say, speak loudly and clearly to the whole group.
- You may take notes.
- Refer to the text.
- No one dominates.
- Remember that you are involved in a group discussion. It is not a debate. If you disagree, aim to do so without being disagreeable.
- The process is not “round robin”. You should simply “read the room”, and speak (without raising your hand) with care not to interrupt others.
- Listen actively.
- Feel free to share your own questions regarding the text/ongoing conversation.
- Everyone shows respect.
- Adhere to the “Rules of Group Process”