

1. Before the Discussion: Form Claims

Record and Consider the Discussion Question:

Form Claims for the Discussion

Review the text(s), tools and notes to form claims and record supporting evidence in preparation for the discussion. You might use a **Forming Evidence-Based Claims Tool** or **Organizing Evidence Tool** to synthesize and organize your analysis.

Claims	Evidence and Explanation

Choose Vocabulary and Discussion Stems

Review your **Vocabulary Journal** and the Discussion Stems in the Academic Discussion Reference Guide. Record words and stems you want to use during the discussion.

Vocabulary and Discussion Stems:

[Empty light blue box for notes]

2. During the Discussion: Keep Notes

Record the claims, evidence, and explanations shared during the discussion. Begin by writing down your own claim.

Claims	Evidence and Explanation
My Claims:	

Based on your notes, summarize the discussion. Include points of agreement and disagreement among your peers.

3. After the Discussion: Reflect

Reflect on Your Understanding

Explain how your peers' claims, evidence, and reasoning support or challenge your own understanding.

Peers' claims, evidence, and reasoning:

How does this support or challenge my thinking?

Reflect on Your Understanding

Use the following questions to reflect on how the discussion affected your understanding.

My claims and understanding prior to the discussion:

What new understanding do I have after discussing the texts?

As needed, revise your claims:

Reflect on Your Understanding

Use the following questions to reflect on what you want to further investigate after the discussion.

What is still difficult to understand?

What do I still want to know?

Reflect on Skills and Habits

Use the following criteria to reflect on and evaluate your participation in the discussion.

Skills and Habits	E	M	B
How well did I prepare for the discussion?			
How well did I follow the norms we set for the conversation?			
How well did I present claims and ideas, and support them with textual evidence?			
When asked, how well did I explain ideas further to make them clearer to others?			
How well did I use academic language and vocabulary?			
How well did I listen and pay attention to, respect and work with all other participants in the discussion?			
How well did I pose questions that were centered on the text or topic and that helped us think more deeply?			
How well did I add to or challenge ideas presented by others?			
How well did I make valid and thoughtful connections and comparisons to the ideas of others?			

Based on your reflections, set goals for the next discussion:

E	Exceeds Expectations	M	Meets Expectations	B	Below Expectations
----------	-----------------------------	----------	---------------------------	----------	---------------------------