

## Discussion Process – 25 October – Week 4

### 1. First round (~15 minutes)

- **Groups 2 & 4** meet to ensure that all team members are comfortable reporting summary of reading
  - How do you talk about the importance of these concepts?
  - What are the underlying issues?
  - What key points do your classmates need to know?
- **Groups 1, 3, 5** review class blog – where reading summaries have already been posted (we can process more information in 60 seconds with our eyes than with our ears!)
- **One member** of each peer group has 5 or 6 cards to distribute to group members – these cards will serve to break the class into three new groups for round two

### 2. Second round (~30 minutes)

- **Three new groups form**
  - There should be at least one member from team 2 and 4 in each group
- **Group 2 rep** -> share important points of primary/supplemental material
- **Group 4 rep** -> share important points of primary/supplemental material
- Questions for presenters

### 3. Third round (~30 minutes)

- Group 1: How do we, as a society, decide to fund long-range research that may or may not “pay off” (aka “primary research”)? Develop at least two scenarios (questions, examples, etc) pro/con.
- Group 2, 3: Examine social forces – for example, the “national broadcast” radio/tv as a tool for unifying the nation versus today’s electronic niches. What trends do you foresee? How might government regulation affect these trends? Relate, if relevant, to Postman or Bush.
- Group 4, 5: Discuss the effects of applying computing power to communication. Which influences do you find particularly fascinating? How has the audience changed? Relate, if relevant, to Postman or Bush.

## 4. Report Out / General Discussion

### Types of summarizing/facilitating comments:

- Objective: I heard Molly make these points. What other points did you hear?
- Reflective: What’s exciting about Molly’s comment is ... What worries me is ... What other reactions do people have?
- Interpretive: Some of the implications of Molly’s thesis could ... What are other implications?
- Decisional: I hear a clear consensus that ... What decision do you hear us making?

Adapted from *The Art of Focused Conversation*

### Group roles from earlier handout:

There are many roles to be played in small groups, and most are shared roles:

- Devil’s Advocate/Skeptic – looks for logical flaws in argument or takes an opposing view for the sake of full discussion
- Gatekeeper – ensures that each member of the group provides input (has a voice in the discussion)
- Initiator – suggests new ideas
- Recorder – maintains the record; may be “minutes” format or highlights of consensus points
- Reporter – the person who shares results with the entire class
- Summarizer – the person who summarizes points of a discussion, including consensus and dissent
- Time-Keeper – the person who keeps an eye on the clock