

Improving Discussion in the Classroom

When you are asking students questions:

1. Start asking questions early in the course.
2. Wait for the answer.
3. Ask only one question at a time.
4. Avoid answering your own questions.
5. Be aware of nonverbal communication.

When you are dealing with their answers to your questions:

1. Practice the art of listening.
2. Praise right answers.
3. Be careful responding to wrong answers.
4. Encourage more than one answer if possible.
5. Encourage various students to participate.

When you are answering their questions:

1. Ask students to repeat questions that you do not understand.
2. Do not get sidetracked by answering irrelevant questions immediately.
3. Don't pretend to answer a question you don't know the answer to.
4. Be careful about responding to questions already answered but being asked by someone who hasn't been paying attention or who has been skipping class.
5. Be careful with questions that challenge your authority.