Frequently Asked Questions about Discussion

1. How can I get a discussion going?

2. What mechanisms can I use to keep the discussion going?

3. What can I do if a discussion falls apart? How can I keep it from dying?

4. How can I best keep conversation flowing without lapsing into long silences or a lecture?

5. How do you get everyone participating, especially the quiet ones?

6. How do you handle “discussion monopolizers”?

7. How can I evaluate discussions?
   a. No grade
   b. Teacher assigns grade
   c. Peers assign grade
   d. Students self-evaluate
   e. The indirect approach
   f. The bottom line on evaluating discussion