



Discussion as a Way of Teaching: Tools and Techniques for Democratic Classrooms

By Stephen D. Brookfield, Stephen Preskill



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Thoroughly revised and updated, the second edition of the landmark book *Discussion as a Way of Teaching* shows how to plan, conduct, and assess classroom discussions. Stephen D. Brookfield and Stephen Preskill suggest exercises for starting discussions, strategies for maintaining their momentum, and ways to elicit diverse views and voices. The book also includes new exercises and material on the intersections between discussion and the encouragement of democracy in the classroom. This revised edition expands on the original and contains information on adapting discussion methods in online teaching, on using discussion to enhance democratic participation, and on the theoretical foundations for the discussion exercises described in the book. Throughout the book, Brookfield and Preskill clearly show how discussion can enliven classrooms, and they outline practical methods for ensuring that students will come to class prepared to discuss a topic. They also explain how to balance the voices of students and teachers, while still preserving the moral, political, and pedagogic integrity of discussion.

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Editorial Review

Review

"Stimulating good discussions is often one of the more difficult tasks of teaching. In this book, Brookfield and Preskill offer a wealth of information and strategies for improving dialogues in the classroom. I found the teacher- and student-centered tone of the book refreshing and the connections drawn between democratic education and discussion methods quite meaningful." (Mary Deane Sorcinelli, associate provost and director, Center for Teaching, University of Massachusetts, Amherst)

"Discussion as a Way of Teaching addresses an important, often underutilized pedagogical approach—the discussion method. The book is a practical and valuable resource for all faculty seeking to improve their teaching and create more learner-centered teaching environments." (Jodi Levine, director of first-year programs, Temple University)

"It would be hard for anyone to read this book and not And up with a large number of ideas about how to use discussion in the classroom. Even experienced readers are likely to be challenged in some of their own assumptions." (David Boud, professor of adult education, University of Technology, Sydney, Australia)

"This book provides an excellent overview of how to cultivate and nurture democratic dispositions and discussion habits in students. Each chapter provides adaptable, practical, and clearly articulated strategies that both novice and experienced teachers can use." (Gary Cale, associate professor of language and literature, Jackson Community College)

"Getting discussion started, keeping it going, attention to cultural and gender issues are but a few of the chapter headings. Practical, but grounded in theory and sound educational philosophy, this is a very useful volume." (Ted Bowman, editor, Reader's Corner)

Review

Praise for the First Edition of *Discussion as a Way of Teaching* Winner of the 1999 Choice Selection of the American Educational Studies Association

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From the Inside Flap

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Written for teachers, trainers, faculty administrators, professional developers, facilitators, and other educational leaders, *Discussion as a Way of Teaching* is a comprehensive volume that offers step-by-step guidance for everything from preparing students to participate in discussion to evaluating its meaning and effect. The chapters in this practical resource contain a wealth of helpful techniques, suggestions, and applications that can be adapted to a wide variety of discussion settings.

Users Review

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Nancy Hedrick:

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