

## Dangerous Discussions

### Grid for Developing/Adapting/Extending Guidelines & Ground Rules

PURPOSE: Organize, summarize, compare advice (pros & cons), resources for using different media to support respectful, constructive Dangerous Discussions

<b>Guidelines</b>  <a href="#">Click here</a> for full text of guidelines	<b>Face-to-Face</b> (Lecture Discussion Lab Seminar Stud/Fac Ratio etc.)	<b>Asynch Text</b> - including anonymous options (e.g., threaded discussion boards; email; listservs)	<b>Synch Text</b> (e.g., text-only chat rooms)	<b>Asynch Audio</b> (e.g., audio-narrated slideshows; podcasts?; voice-mail? Voice Blogs)	<b>Synch Audio + Text + ...</b> (e.g., Elluminate)
<b>1a. Develop guidelines</b>  PRO - OPTIONS	Clarify expectations; increase appropriate participation; support changing old habits/styles of interaction [Impose guidelines prepared by others vs. lead group to generate own guidelines. Fast vs. Slow; Safe vs. Risky; BUT shallow vs. deep] E.g., see R. Tannenbaum's <a href="#">Seminar Guidelines - Listen, Speak, Respect</a>  <b>&lt;Add annotated links to additional good examples&gt;</b>	Use or modify available "Netiquette" guidelines; prevent "flaming"; permit anonymity only after participants demonstrate ability to interact appropriately  E.g., see " <a href="#">Core Rules of Netiquette</a> " excerpted from the book <i>Netiquette</i> by Virginia Shea  <b>&lt;Add annotated links to additional good examples&gt;</b>	Guidelines especially important because of different levels of experience, comfort, facility of participants (who can/cannot use "smileys", who can/cannot type fast, ...)  <b>&lt;Add annotated links to good examples of guidelines applicable to synch text&gt;</b>	Too rare to matter yet?  <b>&lt;Add annotated links to good examples of guidelines applicable to asynch audio&gt;</b>	Very important, especially for people new to these environments  <b>&lt;Add annotated links to good examples of guidelines for synch multi-media tools &amp; platforms&gt;</b>
<b>1b. Develop guidelines</b>  CON - CHALLENGES	Difficult to anticipate all situations; over-codification can inhibit participation	Difficult to anticipate all situations; ...	Difficult to anticipate all situations; ...	Especially difficult to anticipate situations and explain appropriate behavior	Especially difficult to anticipate situations and explain appropriate behavior

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<p><b>2a. Model</b> that discussions are about ideas &amp; issues, not personalities PRO - OPTIONS</p>	<p>Easy to demonstrate appropriate behavior and affirm others for doing so</p> <p>E.g., say "You just criticized Steve, not his idea. Could you try that again, focusing on the content?"</p> <p>&lt;Add annotated links to case studies, descriptions, video recordings of good examples?&gt;</p>	<p>Permits taking time for thoughtful, respectful responses</p> <p>&lt;Add annotated links to transcripts of good examples&gt;</p>	<p>Easy to monitor</p> <p>&lt;Add annotated links to transcripts of good examples&gt;</p>	<p>Permits taking time for thoughtful, respectful responses - and including subtleties of vocal inflection</p> <p>&lt;Add annotated links to archives of good examples&gt;</p>	<p>Permits different individuals to participate in different media, so more people likely to find comfortable way to contribute (being comfortable conducive to appropriate behavior?)</p> <p>&lt;Add annotated links to archives of good examples&gt;</p>
<p><b>2b. Model</b> that discussions are about ideas and issues, not personalities CON - CHALLENGES</p>	<p>Easy to slip or allow others to slip!</p> <p>&lt;Add links to case studies, descriptions, video recordings of examples of bad practice?&gt;</p>	<p>Demands lots of time, attention to monitor and intervene/guide; difficult to provide just enough intervention to shape the flow without intimidating participants</p> <p>&lt;Add annotated links to transcripts of examples of bad practice?&gt;</p>	<p>Difficult to develop, sustain meaningful threads of interaction; difficult to respond both thoughtfully and quickly enough</p> <p>&lt;Add annotated links to transcripts of examples of bad practice?&gt;</p>	<p>Pressure to rehearse in advance? Difficult to "edit" contributions?</p> <p>&lt;Add annotated links to archives of examples of bad practice?&gt;</p>	<p>May require multiple co-leaders (presenters, facilitators) to monitor, guide all simultaneous "channels" in use</p> <p>&lt;Add annotated links to archives of examples of bad practice?&gt;</p>

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<b>3a. Listen</b> and reflect (mirror) what participants say.  PRO - OPTIONS					
<b>3b. Listen</b> and reflect (mirror) what participants say.  CON - CHALLENGES					
<b>4a. Acknowledge own feelings</b> Be aware of one's own feelings and willing to talk about them  PRO - OPTIONS					
<b>4b. Acknowledge own feelings</b> Be aware of one's own feelings and willing to talk about them  CON - CHALLENGES					
<b>5a. Trust participants'</b> capacity for self-restraint and civility  PRO - OPTIONS					
<b>5b. Trust participants'</b> capacity for self-restraint and civility  CON - CHALLENGES					

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<p><b>6a. Trust intuition</b> Learn when to intervene and when to wait by trusting our intuition</p> <p>PRO - OPTIONS</p>					
<p><b>6b. Trust intuition</b> Learn when to intervene and when to wait by trusting our intuition</p> <p>CON - CHALLENGES</p>					
<p><b>7a. Uncertainty OK</b> Establish a climate where participants can risk making statements of which they are uncertain</p> <p>PRO - OPTIONS</p>					
<p><b>7b. Uncertainty OK</b> Establish a climate where participants can risk making statements of which they are uncertain</p> <p>CON - CHALLENGES</p>					
<p><b>8a. When Discussion Falls Apart</b> Acknowledge, call "time out," reflect, write, discuss in small groups, resume</p> <p>PRO - OPTIONS</p>					

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<p><b>8b. When Discussion Falls Apart</b>            Acknowledge, call "time out," reflect, write, discuss in small groups, resume</p> <p>CON - CHALLENGES</p>					
<p><b>9/10a. Especially inappropriate comments</b>            Invite self-correction; if that doesn't work....??</p> <p>PRO - OPTIONS</p>					
<p><b>9/10b. Especially inappropriate comments</b>            Invite self-correction; if that doesn't work....??</p> <p>CON - CHALLENGES</p>					
<p><b>11a. Formulate topics/questions to respect opposing views</b></p> <p>PRO - OPTIONS</p>					
<p><b>11b. Formulate topics/questions to respect opposing views</b></p> <p>CON - CHALLENGES</p>					

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<b>12a. Acknowledge widely shared opinions first</b>  PRO - OPTIONS					
<b>12b. Acknowledge widely shared opinions first</b>  CON - CHALLENGES					
<b>13a. Articulate contextual factors</b> that make a topic more/less dangerous for some participants.  PRO - OPTIONS					
<b>13b. Articulate contextual factors</b> that make a topic more/less dangerous for some participants.  CON - CHALLENGES					
<b>14a. ADD YOUR OWN</b>  PRO - OPTIONS					
<b>14b. ADD YOUR OWN</b>  CON - CHALLENGES					