

# Live Discussion Strategies and Best Practices

## Listening

- Follow the speaker's movements.
- Summarize what the speaker is saying every few sentences by stating to yourself the main ideas. Take notes, if this is helpful.
- Link what the speaker is saying to what you already know.
- Check your understanding by asking yourself questions. If you can answer them, you understand the material. If you can't, you need to ask the speaker for help.
- Model and practise these steps over and over.

## Speaking

- Participate fully, not just when it is your turn to speak.
- Take turns speaking – one person speaks at a time.
- Wait for your turn and don't interrupt.
- Use supportive gestures and body language (ex. nods, encouraging facial expressions etc.)
- If you disagree, be respectful.
- Avoid sarcasm and stay positive.

Sources:

[edu.gov.on.ca/eng/literacynumeracy/inspire/research/talk\\_about\\_listening.pdf](https://edu.gov.on.ca/eng/literacynumeracy/inspire/research/talk_about_listening.pdf)

[edugains.ca/resourcesLIT/LearningMaterials/CrossCurricular/ThinkLiteracy/Oral.pdf](https://edugains.ca/resourcesLIT/LearningMaterials/CrossCurricular/ThinkLiteracy/Oral.pdf)