

# Ace the Group Discussion

Stand out in seminars, MUN, and group interviews

## Four moves that add value

- 1 Build. Add to someone's point: "To build on what Sam said..."
- 2 Bridge. Connect two ideas: "That links to the earlier point about..."
- 3 Redirect. Bring it back on track: "Coming back to the question..."
- 4 Invite. Pull in a quiet voice: "Priya, what do you think?"

## Phrases to keep ready

### To build

"Adding to that..." / "That's a good point, and..."

### To bridge

"That connects to..." / "This links back to..."

### To redirect

"Coming back to the question..." / "Zooming out for a second..."

### To invite

"What do you think, \_\_\_?" / "I'd love another view on this."

### To disagree

"I see it a little differently..." / "That's fair, and also..."

## How to disagree well

- 1 Name their point fairly first.
- 2 Grant what is true in it.
- 3 Add your view with a reason or example.
- 4 Keep it about the idea, never the person.

## Do and don't

### Do

- Reference others by name.
- Ask a question that opens the topic up.
- Come with one or two prepared points.
- Watch the clock and make room for others.

### Don't

- Interrupt or talk over people.
- Repeat a point already made.
- Dominate every exchange.
- Check out when you are not talking.

## Before you walk in

- Read the material and mark two moments worth raising.
- Prepare one or two points you want to make.
- Write down one genuine question.
- Plan to reference at least one person by name.
- Decide to speak in the first five minutes, before it gets harder.

