

8. Description of “Discussion Leader” and “Vibeswatcher” Roles in Class Discussions

Students will lead class discussion in pairs for the dates/topics/readings listed below. This will involve getting together after you have completed the reading assigned for that particular day, perhaps even doing further reading or research on the topic, then crafting a set of questions to guide class discussion that day and posting the questions on Angel for all to see in plenty of time to prepare for class.

On the day of class discussion, student facilitators will need to take on two roles: discussion leader and “vibeswatcher”. The discussion leader makes sure we are addressing the questions raised ahead of time, recognizing students who want to speak, facilitating the flow of conversation. The “vibeswatcher” pays attention to the overall “vibes” of the class that day, and has the authority to jump in and call the group’s attention to a range of issues or behaviors that seem to interfere with learning, such as personal attacks, going off on a tangent, even simple boredom or lack of energy around the topic being discussed.