

### Quality over Quantity

- Quality comes in many forms. Insight is one, but confusion can be equally valuable.
- So-called “stupid” questions are often some of the most productive comments.
- Avoid dominating conversation *or* tuning out.

### Prioritize Clarity

- Clarify how you're using abstract terminology, and make sure you explain words that might be unfamiliar to your peers.
- Avoid excessively obscure language (not all academics remember this one).
- Ask clarifying questions when you don't understand others' comments.

### Stay Engaged

- Listen (actively) to your peers, and respond politely to their comments and questions.
- Stay close to the text under discussion, pointing to specific passages whenever possible.
- Think about how your comments relate to the larger issues animating the class.

### Practice

In your small group, have a brief conversation about the reading in which each of you uses at least one of the scripts below, and all of the scripts get used.

- One thing that interested me was \_\_\_\_\_.
- What does everyone else think about \_\_\_\_\_?
- Here's a passage that might help us answer X's question.
- While I agree with X that \_\_\_\_\_, I interpreted \_\_\_\_\_ differently.
- Building on X's point, \_\_\_\_\_.
- I'm still not entirely sure I understand \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ comes up in this passage on page ##.

After your conversation, reflect on the following questions: What ends up filling in the blanks? Big concepts? Clarifications about language or plot? A mix of the two? Which is more effective and interesting? How do these scripts help ensure that conversation is moving forward, and everyone is working together to understand the text? Then, working as a group and thinking back on your conversation, write one or two of your own scripts below.