

# Instructions

*Welcome to the seminar. For this activity, you will be talking together as a group **without the involvement of the seminar leader.***

Read the [text] for [five] minutes on your own, making notes. When the timer goes off, you have [ten] minutes to discuss the text. **Do this as a whole group, not just with the person next to you.** Take turns speaking, and make an effort to respond to the point made by the last speaker, rather than starting a completely new train of thought.

## Tips for a constructive discussion:

- Try to articulate your whole argument clearly: don't make others 'guess' your argument.
- Refer to the text for evidence – don't generalise but look at specific quotes.
- Listen to the person speaking and address their point – even if you disagree, this is better than talking over them.
- Try to include everyone – if you get into a back-and-forth with another student, invite other perspectives from the group.
- If you are confident and have a lot to contribute, consider letting someone else have some room to take part.
- **IMPORTANT:** Sometimes the best conclusions don't come from agreeing or disagreeing, but of re-thinking the language of arguments and the way they interpret evidence. You may find it is more useful to 'revise' someone else's position rather than reject it in favour of something else.