**TIPS FOR FACILITATING INTERACTIVE LEARNING**

The goal of any discussion group is to get students to engage with one another, the instructor and the course content so that everyone learns from all points made. A question/answer session in which students engage solely with the instructor does not fully accomplish this goal. Instead, the instructor’s and students’ questions need to be owned by the whole group – heard by, considered and responded to by anyone in the group. The following tips may be helpful.

1. Set up the room so that students and instructor are close enough to hear one another and to make eye contact.
2. Establish expectations for how the sessions will be conducted.
3. Ask open ended questions unless you need to determine whether students know facts, definitions, etc. There’s a time and place for close-ended questions and right answers.
4. Listen for thoughtful responses and explanations. Then, follow up by asking for evidence: Where did the information come from? Why does a student hold an opinion?
5. Don’t allow students to interrupt one another or wave their hands in the air while someone else is speaking. Let them know that these are signs that they are not listening to what someone else is saying.
6. Don’t call on students in the order in which they raised their hands, but instead be sure that a student wants to respond to, build upon or critique the previous speaker’s comments (unless the topic has been exhausted).
7. Ask students raising new topics prematurely if it would be okay to table that idea for later. Or, ask him/her if the point is related to the on-going discussion.