

INTERMEDIATE CONVERSATION

Protocols for Group Discussion

Ashline

For the group project, form into groups of 3 or 4. Determine a group leader who will coordinate schedules of meetings and lead the discussion on the designated day. In the course of one two-hour class, have a group discussion in English in order to decide on a topic that will be the focus for the group project. Choose a topic that is timely, interesting, that involves a bit of background research, that the class will find compelling, that is not tired and overused as a topic in university classes in general, and that can be carried out as an in-class group discussion in 15-20 minutes or roughly 5 minutes per person in the group. After the topic is determined, decide what kind of information needs to be gathered, and then the group leader should take down all contact information for the rest of the members of the group and a plan should be made and a schedule decided for meetings outside of class in order to prepare. However, on the day of the actual group project, the participants should communicate conversationally. This conversation should be improvised and not read from sheets of paper. If notes need to be available, they should be glanced at and not read. All discussion should flow naturally, as if the conversation is happening then for the very first time. The group leader should facilitate the discussion and intervene to include others as needed. The group lead is free to make contributions as well. And the group leader should monitor the time so that the discussion does not go beyond the designated 15 or 20 minutes allotted. The group projects will be made one week after the assignment is given, so time is of the absolute essence.