



LEADING AN ECCE SPEAKER SERIES DISCUSSION



Following each ECCE Speaker Series event, students enrolled in the UNI 301 course participate in reflective writing assignments about the event by responding to discussion questions and commenting on other students' posts through Blackboard. Each event represents a class meeting and requires that the content and discussion remain central to ECCE learning outcomes. You can assist students with this process by being an effective discussion leader!

DISCUSSION LEADER ROLE

The role of the Speaker Series discussion leader is to facilitate conversation between the audience and presenter. This individual is tasked with generating a lively and productive discussion among the group.

The discussion leader should be prepared for the session by researching the topic and the speaker(s) or panelists beforehand to add to the discussion. During discussion, the leader remains neutral and refrains from influencing opinions.

A skilled leader is able to keep the discussion moving and conversation on topic. If there is a lull, the discussion leader is quick to interject a question, probe for further details, or bring up a point which may prompt debate.

Discussion leaders make brief summary statements (where necessary) and encourage reflection. They are able to offer transition statements between participant statements and topics.

To conclude, the discussion leader cues the audience for the last question and closes the discussion with a final statement that emphasizes the central idea of the presentation with major points, action items and resolutions.

ECCE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Speaker Series is founded on and promotes the following themes / learning outcomes for our students:

- ⇒ *Recognize the social responsibility of the individual within a larger community*
- ⇒ *Practice awareness of and respect for the diversity of cultures and peoples in this country and in the world*
- ⇒ *Reflect on the ways involvement, leadership, and respect for community occur at the local, regional, national, or international levels*
- ⇒ *Identify how economic, political, and social systems operate now and have operated in the past*
- ⇒ *Engage in open-minded and ethical decision-making and action*
- ⇒ *Distinguish the possibilities and limitations of social change*

Framing questions around the main learning outcomes tied to your event reinforces student learning. Keep this in mind when you are preparing discussion questions for the audience engagement component of your event.

HOUSEKEEPING ITEMS

Most Speaker Series events are recorded and close captioned to comply with ADA requirements before being shared with students or posted to the video archive on the website. To ensure exceptional audio quality for recordings and captioning accuracy, we require that microphones are used by all audience members who participate during the discussion portion of the event. Before the Q & A, **request that the audience wait for a microphone prior to speaking.** If someone starts talking without the microphone, ask them to repeat what they said into the mic before proceeding.

The Speaker Series student assistant will be passing the microphone to audience members as needed throughout the discussion portion but also needs to set up to swipe students out after the event. In order to give our staff time to transition from the discussion to swipe out procedures, we ask that the discussion leader **announce when the last question is being asked prior to closing remarks.**