



# GUIDELINES FOR BEING AN ENGAGED STUDY GROUP MEMBER

Members of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute enjoy the invigorating exchange of ideas through active participation in peer-led groups. The more active the participation, the greater the reward.

Here are some guidelines for getting the maximum from one's role as a member of a study group:

## **Before the Term Begins:**

- Watch your email from [olli@northwestern.edu](mailto:olli@northwestern.edu) that confirms your enrollment.
- Check your email for a communication from your coordinator.
- Buy the book or other materials, so that you are ready to participate actively on Day One.

## **The First Day of Class:**

- Take a seat in the classroom and put up your name tent (request a name tent from the OLLI office if you do not have one).
- Understand and observe the Coordinators' ground rules for participation.
- **Engage! Contribute! Enjoy!**

## **Before the Next Class:**

- Was this the right class for you? If not, the office will help you change.

## **Before Each Session:**

- Check your email for direction from the Coordinator or the Discussion Leader.
- Read all assigned material and discussion questions carefully and purposefully.
- Think about the ideas, arguments, or views presented in the selection.
- Highlight, make notes, and identify questions you might want to explore.

## **During Each Session:**

- Listen actively—and with respect—to the ideas and opinions of others.
- Raise a hand to be recognized, then enter into the conversation.
- Be focused and succinct. Stick to the topic or issue under discussion.
- One group, one discussion. Refrain from private, side-bar conversations.
- Political opinions are fine—if they are respectful of others' opinions.