

Group

Discussion

What is a Group Discussion?

- Participation in a systematic way on a particular topic..

.....not a wrestling match to score points

It is an expression of your point of view and respecting another's point of view.

Remember!!!! A GD is only a discussion not a debate. Do not get angry.

Purpose of a Group Discussion

- Conducted in a competitive mode.
- Not to establish you as a winner and others as losers.
- To help you come across as a person with sound, logical reasoning and the ability to respect and accept another's viewpoint.

Critical Difference between a GD and a Debate

- A debate begins with two groups' bids to outwit each other.
- A discussion is a gradual process; participants have the opportunity to refine their views in the course of the discussion.
- Every member needs to contribute as much as possible and add to the existing knowledge base instead of pulling each other down

Why are GD's conducted?

- To prepare you for the future and make you well informed.
- To make you listen and talk in a mature and logical manner.
- If you need to disagree, then doing so in a calm manner.
- Attack **ISSUES** not people.
- Carefully listen to other people's points and try to improve your own by using other people's inputs on the subject

What does the GD test you in?

- Body language
- Communication skills
- Self-confidence
- Team skills
- Listening ability
- Ability to present your views logically
- Time management

Important points to remember

- Build your knowledge base.
- Analyse issues from various angles.
- Maintain a positive attitude.
- Stay motivated
- Stay focused and competitive.
- See things from the other person's viewpoint and respect it even if you strongly disagree

Practice make perfect

- Participate in a few mock GD's.
- Identify your areas of strength and areas for improvement and work on them consciously.
- Let go of old habits like indulging in small talk with a group of friends and instead
- **FOCUS** on discussing a topic of current relevance.
- An informal gathering of friends can be converted into a GD practice session

What actually happens in a GD?

- Initiation / Introduction
- Body of the group discussion
- Summarization / Conclusion

How to make a good first impression?

- Quotes
- Definition
- Question
- Shock statement
- Facts, figures and statistics
- Short story
- General statement

Summarisation Techniques

Keep the following points in mind while summarising a discussion:

- Avoid raising new points.
- Avoid stating only your viewpoint.
- Avoid dwelling only on one aspect of the GD.
- Keep it brief and concise.
- It must incorporate all the important points that came out during the GD.
- If the examiner asks you to summarise a GD, it means the GD has come to an end. Do not add anything once the GD has been summarised

DO's For a GD

- SPEAK - very important
- Be a good listener
- Address the whole group ,not a single person
- Initiate & Begin - BUT only if you have a good point
- Utilize the lull - speak when others are quiet.
- Be Involved
- Be clear and carefully consider your argument.

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DON'Ts For a GD

- Don't be INERT (not participate)
- Don't be too AGGRESSIVE either
- Avoid one to one discussions
- Don't Rush
- Avoid other languages
- **Don't Interrupt Abruptly - to calm down say
“you are right.....but I thinkits
important.....”**

The Three P's

- **P**atience
- **P**articipation
- **P**rojection

Keep Talking