

Philosophical Chairs

Rules of Engagement

1. Be sure you understand the central statement or topic before the discussion begins. Decide which section you will sit in.
2. Listen carefully when others speak and seek to understand their arguments even if you don't agree.
3. Wait for the mediator to recognize you before you speak; only one person speaks at a time.
4. You must first summarize briefly the previous speaker's argument before you make your response.
5. If you have spoken for your side, you must wait until three other people on your side speak before you speak again.
6. Be sure that when you speak, you address the ideas, not the person stating them.
7. Keep an open mind, and move to the other side or the undecided section if you feel that someone made a good argument or your opinion is swayed.
8. Support the mediator by maintaining order and helping the discussion to progress.