



## The Concepts of Seminar

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### + What is a seminar?

- Generally understood to be a small group meeting in which students and a tutor discuss information on a chosen topic.
- May be called something else such as "tutorial groups".
- Provides an opportunity to explore topics by discussion, and to identify and sort out any problems.

## + What is seminar?

- The opportunity to introduce new related topics.
- Most seminars last for an hour or more.
- Seminars need not necessarily be face-to-face contact, they can also occur in online environments.



## + Who does what?

- Often a seminar is led by a student who prepares and presents the topic and kicks off the discussion.
- Other students contribute their ideas, opinions and questions.
- Questions should be well prepared.
- Tutor's role is to facilitate the discussions, and to encourage contributions from others, (and not to give lecture).

## + Why have seminars?

explore topics in more depth;

share ideas in a way that will advance your thinking;

gain perspectives and points of view that you might not have otherwise considered;

learn from other people's experiences and background knowledge;

identify and sort out any misunderstandings.

## + What's in it for you?

- Opportunity to clarify and deepen your understanding and increase your confidence in the topics studied.
- In a seminar, the group shares the responsibility for keeping control of the discussion (this gives you the chance to gather your thoughts before presenting them against

the different points of view)

## + What is expected from you?

- You will learn more about your subject area, and become more comfortable with the language of your subject area.
- Terms which before you thought were unnecessary 'jargon' now have some meaning.
- You will develop a wide range of skills.

## + What is expected from you?

- Don't be scared to talk. It's polite to do so.
- (It's selfish to contribute nothing to the discussion, but write down everyone else's ideas for use in an essay).



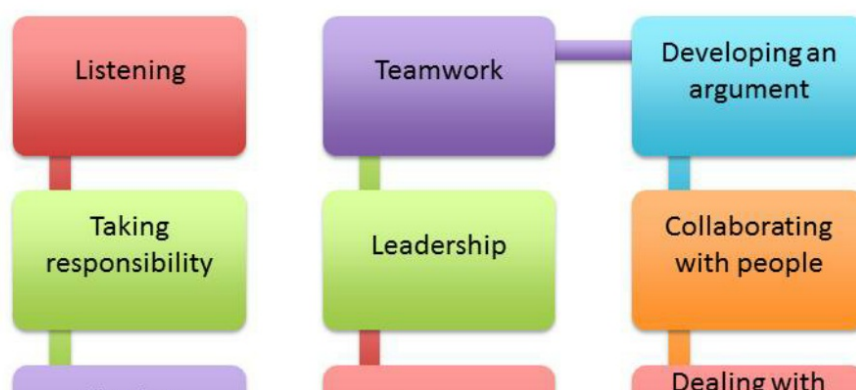
## What is expected from you?



- What if you have lots of things to say? Don't hog the discussion, but allow others to take it in the direction they want sometimes.
- If there's a gap, you can politely say, 'I wonder if we could go back to the question of ....., as there's something I'd like to explore..'



## Skills







## + Benefits of participating in seminars

- Discovering that other students are experiencing the same difficulties as you.
- Being able to realise that there are different ways of approaching the same topic.



## + Benefits of participating in seminars

- Ability to share ideas and work together and

to become more familiar and confident with the course content.



## Benefits of participating in seminars



- Seminar groups often become supportive of each other's efforts.
- Some seminar groups even end up meeting without their tutor!