As a class, agree on ground rules for classroom interaction and discussion. By asking students for their input, you give them a sense of ownership that may help them to take the ground rules more seriously. Refer to p. 48 in the GSI guidebook for additional examples.

**Sample Ground Rules for Small Groups**

1. Respect each person’s right to their values, beliefs, and perspective.
2. Listen to each other with a spirit of learning, curiosity, and openness.
3. One person speaks at a time.
4. Use “I” statements, speak for yourself and not for others.
5. Check out assumptions before reacting, assume that everyone’s trying their best.
6. Be open – bring up issues and concerns that are important to you, and share all relevant information.
7. No put downs of self or others.
8. Be specific and give examples.
9. Stick to the topic at hand.
10. Share air time.
11. No cross-talking or side conversations.
12. Keep the big picture and group goal in mind; think about what’s best for the group and not just you individually.
13. Be flexible and open to alternative viewpoints and solutions.