

The roles within Philosophic Discussion



Interlocutor - *Interlocutor* traces back to the Latin word *interloqui*, meaning "to speak between." We use *interlocutor* either for "a conversation partner," or for "a third party in a conversation," like a middleman who speaks on behalf of an organization. Someone who participates in a discussion or conversation, sometimes as a go-between. If you and your friend are in an argument and aren't speaking, a third friend could act as an *interlocutor*, delivering messages back and forth.

Protagonist - the leading character, hero, or heroine of a drama or other literary work. a proponent for or advocate of a political cause or social program, etc. the leader or principal person in a movement, cause, etc. the first actor in ancient Greek drama, who played not only the main role, but also other roles when the main character is offstage.

Presenter - The person that researches information about the topic and presents that information to the group.

Scribe - The person who observes the dialog and recaps the overall findings of the group.

Audience - The audience can play any of the roles defined above, at the direction of the Interlocutor

Meeting Facilitation Guidelines

The Mindset

Establishing a Safe and Welcoming Environment

Philosophy is not a specific topic or opinion, but process for discussing difficult topics. It is a mindset, a process, and a behavior.

The **mindset** is an inquisitive nature, with a desire to learn, collaborate with others, help others, and evolve knowledge toward "Absolute Truth".

The **process** is "Socratic Method" (a form of cooperative argumentative dialogue between individuals).

The **behavior** is an unwavering respect of the viewpoints, experiences and contributions of others and actions designed to maintain a high standard of interaction. This includes prohibiting phrases like "blooming idiot" except when referring to dead philosophers.

Seven reasons why people ask questions - and only one of them is because they want to know the answer

- 1: They want to know the answer to the question.
- 2: They are testing you.
- 3: They are accusing you.
- 4: To impose a delay, to get you off their back
- 5: To express disagreement or disapproval
- 6: To exert power
- 7: To make a statement

Another technique for facilitating productive meetings is the psychological process of:

- Step 1 - Mirroring to earn respect
- Step 2 - Probing to uncover underlying meanings
- Step 3 - Exploring additional options to try