

## Session 1: Facilitating Effective Discussions, 8:45 to 9:25am

### Rank Order Activity

*Rank the following 5 attributes of classroom discussion from most to least important. Make some short notes to explain your thinking.*

#### **Everyone Participates**

All students participate actively in the discussion (this can include active listening).

#### **Diversity of Opinions**

Multiple viewpoints on a given issue are expressed and defended.

#### **Appropriate Use of Evidence**

Students support their opinions with evidence that is relevant and accurate.

#### **Minimal Teacher Involvement**

Students lead and direct the vast majority of the discussion, and the instructor only intervenes to facilitate or mediate when necessary.

#### **Respectful Environment**

Students follow the rules of classroom etiquette and treat each other with respect.

#### **Instructions**

1. Rank discussion attributes from most important (1) to least important (5). Jot down some notes if needed. **(4 minutes)**
2. Divide the table into two groups of four.
3. Assign a timekeeper (person who has been a teacher the longest).
4. Take turns sharing order and reasoning. Person with the most recent birthday goes first. **(2 minutes each — 8 min total)**
5. Discuss and compare — What differences do you notice? What accounts for these differences? Does anyone want to change the order they started with? **(3 minutes)**