

Principles for Online Discussion

Welcome to the conversation. Even in an online environment, there are conversational behaviors that should be practiced. Conversing online gives you a unique opportunity to thinking differently, be reflective and to experience thinking together.

Principle #1: We need to see each other – If we were meeting face-to-face, we'd expect to be able to see each other 'physically' as well as see each other as 'equals'. Each of us would also expect to be heard. *(Because we're online, add your image to your profile so that people can put a face with a name in our online environment. Participate fully in the discussion board.)*

Principle #2: We stay curious about each other - Listen to the story, the question and the voice within.

Principle #3: We slow down so that we have time to think, ponder, and reflect – Let there be “space” between the speakers. Let the space in the conversation emerge. In an online environment, sometimes it's good to read...leave....reflect...& then return & respond!

Principle #4: We value the question more than the answer – Often, lying within the question is a deeper question or an answer not yet discovered.

Principle #5: We suspend certainty and allow room for difference – It is through difference that we experience the world newly. Let go of your assumptions, or at least listen to them and be aware of them. Assumptions lead to judgments.

Principle #6: We speak from our own experience – What is on your mind, in your heart? What does your soul yearn to say. Speak your truth, tell your story – be succinct when possible.

Principle #7: We learn from story and reflection - more often than from data.

Principle #8: We expect it to be messy at times – Remember: conversation, whether face-to-face or online, is the natural way humans **think together**.

Source:

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http://www.coachfederation.org/2004proceedings/icf_data/pages/trackf/kimseyhandout.pdf