

### **Guidelines for group discussion:**

1. Choose any topic from the list below and discuss the points that can be discussed in that topic.
2. Divide the students into groups of 10. While a topic is under discussion by one group, other students present there be instructed to observe the manner in which discussion is being conducted and group members are projecting their views.
3. Give them a topic for the group discussion. Teacher may introduce in brief the topic for discussion without giving his/her biased opinion or without being judgmental about the whole issue.
4. Individual members of each group should be given around 10 minutes for preparation.
5. The group should not deviate from the topic of discussion.
6. Students can take on various roles during the group discussion. Some of these are:
  - a. The initiator: one who initiates the discussion. It is crucial to give the right direction to the group discussion. The person who starts the group discussion should be very sure of his understanding of the topic.
  - b. Moderator: who tells the group about the need to reach a conclusion and also avoids the discussion from deviating into other topics.
  - c. Gatekeeper: In every group there are members who are aggressive and those who do not speak at all. Maintaining a balance between them is crucial. The gatekeeper motivates people to participate in the discussion and also helps the aggressive ones make room for others.
  - d. Summarizer: This person summarizes the valid points discussed by the group. This is generally done towards the end of the discussion but at times people keep summarizing every few minutes. Over doing this is not a good thing.
7. Each student should be given proper **feedback**\* and told about his/her strong/weak points after the whole exercise is over.

\*Clarity of thought and expression, use of appropriate vocabulary and terminology, relevance to the topic, level of participation (too little/too much) ability to comprehend what others are saying, allowing and encouraging others to speak etc.

### **Topics for group discussion :**

- a. Educated young people should join politics.
- b. Are parents always right?
- c. Should corporal punishment be banned in schools?
- d. Should criminals be debarred from contesting elections?
- e. No retention policy till class 7 is a good idea.