

## **Student Comments from UVa Discussion Sections**

### **Communicating the importance of material**

“This was a good section. I had three sections in three completely different subjects, and this was by far the best run and most useful. Thanks Olivia for reassuring me that sections do have a point.”

### **Student trust in my commitment**

“This was one of the best discussion classes I’ve had in a good while. The students were thoroughly engaged, and the instructor was warm and thought-provoking. She was neither overly aggressive, leading the conversation, nor was she overly passive... I highly recommend her as an instructor.”

### **Effort and flexibility in presenting material**

“I really enjoyed the discussions and the readings were a lot more interesting than I had anticipated. Also, she did a great job clarifying any confusion in the readings and the readings were always clearer after she had explained it.”

“Our discussion section was rather quiet and I felt the same people talked all the time. However, I did like it when we broke into smaller groups because it seemed like people were more comfortable sharing in that situation...”

### **Course goal 1: Learning to analyze evidence and write clearly (weekly assignments)**

“The discussion question written for each class really helped me to grasp the material.”

“Weekly writings were useful for keeping people on task.”

“The [readings] were good and the homework assignments were good because they forced me to read and they weren’t painful to write up.”

“I always had difficulty with the homework assignments – I had trouble thinking up and answering my own questions. However, I do think they provided good material for the discussions.”

### **Course goal 2: Learning to discuss ideas cogently and respectfully**

“Very good discussion leader, sweet lady who encourages everyone to talk. Makes the students actually want to talk.”

“Good job leading the discussion and keeping it focused without being controlling.”

*What should remain the same about this course?*

“The atmosphere of freedom to speak.”

“The amount of discussion encouraged by the instructor.”

“The fact that students were allowed to lead discussions at times.”