

SPEAKING

PARTICIPATION IN A GROUP DISCUSSION

DEFINITION:

Group Discussion- A group of individuals, who share a common interest forms a group to discuss ideas, solve problems, and exchange information to achieve a common goal.

The term **Group discussion** is commonly known as “GD”, and many institutions or organizations expect their candidates should be excelled in Interpersonal communication skills, confidence in public speaking, team spirit, leadership qualities and problem solving skills.

Advantages of group discussion:

- Easy to set up
- Fast and relatively inexpensive
- Stimulates dialogues and new ideas (Chaining/ Cascade effect)
- Opportunities for disclosure among similar
- Very flexible
- Socially oriented ‘Synergism’ and ‘Snowballing’ of ideas.

Benefits of Group Discussion:

- Everyone gets a chance to voice out their opinions
- You can improve communication skills
- Cultivate divergent thinking
- Improve your analytical skill
- Improve People handling skill
- You learn negotiating skill
- Enhances language skill
- Develops team work

DO’S IN A GROUP DISCUSSION:

- First impression is the best impression. As for GD, Enter the discussion with a strategical point rather than a random point.

- Address group members with respect and dignity.
- You should understand the difference between starting and initiating the discussion.
- Establish eye contacts with the participants.
- Use a louder voice, strong diction and correct grammar.
- Take counter arguments in a positive way, and display good listening skill.
- When asked to conclude, summarize the main points of discussion.
- Maintain serenity throughout the discussion that exposes your ability of managing stress effectively.

DONT'S IN A GROUP DISCUSSION:

- Don't start for the sake of starting; this may project you as a person with a lack of planning and organizing skills.
- Don't be arrogant or aggressive
- Don't show a lack of attention
- Don't indulge in cross discussion when the main discussion is in progress
- Don't project informal body language
- Don't scream or shout to prove your point.
- All the qualities of the group discussions cannot be developed at once, but rather it should be cultivated gradually.

CONCLUSION:

GD should have a natural setting where you can raise a question, gather various answers or ideas to that question and bring a perfect solution to that question.