Guidelines for Classroom Discussion – Terry Doyle

1. Everyone in class has both a right and an obligation to participate in discussions and, if called upon, is expected to respond.
2. Always listen carefully, with an open mind, to the contributions of others.
3. Ask for clarification when you don’t understand a point someone has made.
4. If you challenge others’ ideas, do so with factual evidence and appropriate logic.
5. If others challenge your ideas, be willing to change your mind if they demonstrate errors in your logic or use of the facts.
6. Don’t introduce irrelevant issues into the discussion.
7. If others have made a point with which you agree, don’t bother repeating it, (unless you have something important to add).
8. Be efficient in your discourse; make your points and then yield to others.
9. Above all, avoid ridicule and try to respect the beliefs of others, even if they differ from yours