



TRAINING & PLACEMENT CELL, BITM

TIPS for GROUP DISCUSSION

- 1. Prepare yourself:** If you don't know your topic in advance, you will have less to contribute and will understand the discussion less. Research some background information on your topic if you are given it in advance.
- 2. Be confident:** If you aren't confident with yourself, you'll be scared of sharing your opinions. You need to trust yourself and others and you need to feel confident in your thoughts. Share your opinions- it doesn't matter what other people think as long as your thoughts matter to you.
- 3. Choose Magazines that are Rich in Content:** Always opt for magazines that are content rich and not just full of advertisements. Start reading good news-papers, editorials, subscribe to good magazines related to current affairs, politics and history.
- 4. Be Aware of Topics that are Repeated Often:** There are topics which re-appear with minute changes and minor variations. Be aware of such topics well in advance so that you have ample time to prepare for the same and can come up with some unique, insightful points along with dates, stating facts. For example, the issues of terrorism, gender inequality, poverty, Ayodhya conflict, liberalisation and privatisation, reservations in educational institutions etc. often appear as GD topics.
- 5. Work on your Communication Skills:** You should have a good vocabulary and a decent command over English. Much before your actual group discussion, rehearse well. You can sit with a group of friends and choose a topic and indulge in a friendly banter. Not only will this increase your knowledge, you will be a better speaker by the time it is time for your GD.
- 6. Form a debate:** Group discussion is weighing the pros and cons of a debatable topic. The group discussions are mostly a way to see if how people's views are different, and how they perceive things. It's also comparing answers to others.
- 7. Be as natural as possible:** Do not try to be someone you are not. Be yourself. In an attempt to be someone else, your opinions will not be portrayed.
- 8. Body Gestures are very important:** The panellists observe the way you sit and react in the course of the discussion. In a GD, sit straight and be confident; avoid leaning back on to the chair or knocking the table with pen or your fingers.
- 9. Be assertive yet humble:** You need to stick to your values and beliefs, but learn to respect the values and opinions of others too.
- 10. Be the first and also the Last to Speak:** As mentioned earlier, initiating a GD is an advantage. Closing it too also adds brownie points. If you can grab the opportunity to close the discussion, then you should summarise it. If the group has not reached a conclusion try concluding it. Accomplishing in a group discussion is like driving a car. You have the control and power to accelerate or brake as per the situation you come across to reach to your destination. Just try to be that conscientious driver in a GD. You should be aware when to apply brakes or accelerate depends on the conversation to turn onto your side.

BEST WISHES!