

APPENDIX H

Suggested "Rules of Engagement" for OLLI Discussion Classes*

1. The *Facilitator's* primary role is that of a facilitator of a class-wide discussion (and occasionally a "herder of cats" - not a teacher or lecturer).
2. The facilitator will discourage efforts to "politicize" and/or monopolize any discussion topic by one or more members of the class (facilitator included).
3. It is expected that all comments will be treated with respect. OLLI classes should be a safe environment for expressing opinions without fear of being attacked or ridiculed. – by the class members or the facilitator.
4. All members of the class have a right to be heard or to be silent if that is their desire. When speaking, speak loudly enough to be heard by others.
5. The facilitator will call on any class member who raises his/her hand, thus signifying a desire to speak. (optional, but helpful to discourage monopolizing and encourage participation)
6. The facilitator will strongly discourage "side conversations" while others are speaking. It's rude to the speaker and distracting to others.
7. Class members need to realize that OLLI is an opportunity to broaden knowledge, interact with others, and clarify positions and/or change previously held positions. In other words, the class may not come to any "set in concrete" conclusions relative to any particular topic and that is O.K.
8. Class members will please obey basic rules of courtesy and decorum. One can disagree without being disagreeable. OLLI classes should be a safe environment to express one's opinion.
8. Please make every attempt to read the materials before the class begins.

**Idea originated by long-time OLLI Facilitator, Harry Cullis*