



Stage 2 – Intergenerational Online Reading Groups

Guidance for participants

First and foremost we want you to enjoy participating in the Intergenerational Online Book Groups.

We've come up with a few guidelines to help us ensure that this is the case.

We'll discuss these in the first initial meeting and add more you suggest.

Running a book group online will be different from meeting in person and we want to make sure that everyone has the chance to participate as fully as they would like. We've added a discussion forum on canvas and there's a chat function too where you can share views and discuss the books and themes of discussion beyond the group meetings.

During the Book Group meetings we suggest that:

- You try to move somewhere quiet in your home with as little background noise as possible and with as few distractions as possible (we know this can't always be possible)
- You mute your microphones unless you are talking. We've both participated in online discussions where this works quite well without stiling discussion. The muting of microphones minimises background noise and it's also really clear for everyone to see who has their microphone is on and is currently speaking. We think this would work well in making sure that people take turns of speaking and that everyone has a chance to speak and make their views known if they want to.
- We would suggest that you signal that you want to talk by raising your hand so that we can make sure everyone gets a chance to speak if they would like to. It's easy in person to know from body language when someone has something to say or agrees/disagrees with the person talking. This is more difficult online.
- We're not going to be strict about any of this, really we want everyone to enjoy the discussion but if we're all talking over each other some members of the group may become frustrated that they can't follow what's going on or haven't had a chance to speak.
- We can also use text chat during the book group to indicate when we'd like to speak or whether we agree or have opinions. We can decide as a group whether we like this feature or not.

Above all we want to ensure that everyone is treated equally and with respect.