



Unit 1

Introduction to Discussion

Unit Overview

In this unit, students are going to know some basic information about group discussion and the variety of current issues. Students are required to apply vocabulary about current issues into oral communication and make some practice on proposing a topic in discussion.

Focuses and Difficulties:

Focuses:

1. To understand the purposes and procedure of group discussion.
2. To enlarge the vocabulary about current issues.
3. To know the variety of current issues.

Difficulties:

1. How to propose a topic in group discussion.
2. How to find a topic worth of discussion.



Before-class Tasks

Task 1: Topic Today

Read the following news article and discuss the questions within your group and write down the answers.

Job-Hunters, Have You Posted Your Résumé on TikTok?



Feeling limited by LinkedIn, some Gen Z-ers are now applying for jobs using TikTok résumés. Employers are paying attention.

“Calling all recruiters!” Makena Yee, 21, a college student in Seattle, shouted into her camera in a recent TikTok video. “These are the reasons why you should hire me!”

Ms. Yee went on to outline her qualifications. “I’m driven with confidence, I love keeping organized, I’m adaptive and I’m a team player,” she said, as images of companies she had worked for flashed up on a green screen behind her.

◆ The 60-second video quickly racked up over 182,000 views and hundreds of comments. Users tagged potential employers. “Someone hire herrrr!” one commenter implored. Ms. Yee said she had received more than 15 job leads, which she plans to pursue after a summer internship.

In modern job searches, tidy one-page résumés are increasingly going

the way of the fax machine. That may be accelerated by an app known for viral lip-syncing and dance videos, which is popularizing the TikTok résumé.

As more college students and recent graduates use TikTok to network and find work, the company has introduced a program allowing people to apply directly for jobs. And employers, many facing labor shortages, are interested. Chipotle, Target, Alo Yoga, Sweetgreen and more than three dozen other companies have started hiring people via the app.

The TikTok résumé is central to these efforts. Job applicants submit videos with the hashtag #TikTokResumes and through [TikTokresumes.com](https://www.tiktokresumes.com) to show their skills, something like a personal essay of old. They include their contact information and, if they want, their LinkedIn profile. Employers review the videos, which must be set to public, and schedule interviews with the applicants they find the most compelling.

The résumés are an effort to help young people “get the bag” and get paid, Kayla Dixon, a marketing manager at TikTok who developed the program, said in a statement.

They are also an outgrowth of a part of TikTok called careertok, where people share job-hunting advice, résumé tips and job opportunities. Videos with the hashtag #edutokcareer have amassed over 1.2 billion views since TikTok was introduced in the United States in 2018.

But the video résumés have also raised concerns. The format strips away a level of anonymity, allowing employers to potentially dismiss candidates based on how someone looks or acts. Much of the networking on TikTok also depends on amassing views, which can be hard for those who aren't adept at creating content or who have struggled to get equal distribution in the app's feed.

TikTok is not the first social platform that companies have sought to leverage for recruiting. LinkedIn, the professional networking site owned by Microsoft, is heavily used by both job seekers and recruiters. In 2015, Taco Bell advertised internship opportunities on Snapchat, and in 2017, McDonald's let people apply for jobs through a Snapchat tool known as “Snaplications.” That same year, Facebook began allowing companies to post job openings to their pages and to communicate with applicants through Facebook Messenger.

TikTok is now taking it further with video applications, rather than a swipe up to a more traditional application page. Though TikTok résumés are open to people of all ages, top videos submitted through the hashtag are from Gen Z users, most of whom are in college. The app said over 800 applicants had submitted TikTok résumés in the past week.

“Hiring people or sourcing candidates through video just feels like a natural evolution of where we are in a society,” said Karyn Spencer, global chief marketing officer of Whalar, an influencer company that recently hired an employee off TikTok. “We’re all communicating more and more through video and photos, yet so many résumés our hiring team receives feel like 1985.”

Kalli Roberts, 23, a student at Brigham Young University in Utah, said the 2001 movie “Legally Blonde” had inspired her TikTok résumé. She recreated the famous application video that the main character, Elle Woods, played by Reese Witherspoon, submitted in a bid to attend Harvard Law School.

Some companies said TikTok résumés were a useful way to evaluate candidates for public-facing roles. Chipotle has posted over 100 open positions to the app so far to hire restaurant team members, said Tressie Lieberman, the chain’s vice president for digital marketing.

- Please write a summary for this news.

- Why do the college students choose TikTok to apply for jobs?

- In what way is the TikTok résumé different from others?

- What problems do video résumés have?

- What did other social platforms do in recruiting people?

- Do you think video application will replace traditional application in the future? Why?

- What will you do if you make your own application video?

Task 2: Preview

Check the dictionary and find out both Chinese and English explanations of the new words in In-class Task 2. Try to supplement the glossary charts by your own research.

Task 3: Bring a Topic to Discussion

Try to find a topic concerned with some current issue that arouses your interest with the help of newspapers, radio broadcasts, television programs, news agency websites or other forms of news source. Fill in the following blanks which will help you record necessary information; and prepare a 2-minute presentation about it.

News Title	
Who	
When	
Where	
What	
Reasons of Interest	
News Source	

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In-class Tasks

Task 1: Presentation

Present the news topic you are interested in (Before-class Task 3). Each team needs to illustrate the information about who, when, where, what, reasons of interest and news source within 2 minutes.

Task 2: Vocabulary Building

Share what you've found before class with your partners. Try to enlarge your vocabulary and knowledge concerned with current issues. Explain the words to your partners **in English with examples** and examine who offers more supplements in your group.

Media

- ❖ News Agency
- ❖ TikTok
- ❖ Micro-blog
- ❖ WeChat
- ❖ New Media
- ❖ We-Media

Words Added by You:



News

- ❖ Anecdote
- ❖ Brief
- ❖ Byline
- ❖ Column
- ❖ Cover
- ❖ Editorial
- ❖ Exclusive News
- ❖ Scoop
- ❖ Feature
- ❖ Criticism
- ❖ Extra
- ❖ Topicality
- ❖ Attribution
- ❖ Banner
- ❖ Lead
- ❖ Columnist
- ❖ Contributing Editor
- ❖ Contributor

Words Added by You:

Task 3: Discussion Skill

In this task you are required to master the basic information about group discussion, including the definition and procedure of group discussion. Then, you are required to practice the skill of proposing a topic in cooperation with your partners.

Step 1: to know basic information about group discussion

Group Discussion

Group discussion could be defined as a purposeful oral communication process which allows all its participants to express and exchange views on a specific issue or topic, for the purpose of better understanding, decision making or problem solving. Interaction is essential for group discussion. All participants should listen and respond to each other as well as express their own personal views.

It is of great importance to develop group discussion ability because group discussion takes place between friends, family and colleagues every day. You will be amazed if you made a serious calculation on how often you discuss with others a current issue and try to work out a solution to it. Group discussion is not only widely used in daily life and education, but also becoming a useful tool in job interview and promotion procedure. Therefore, it is necessary for students to practice this skill.

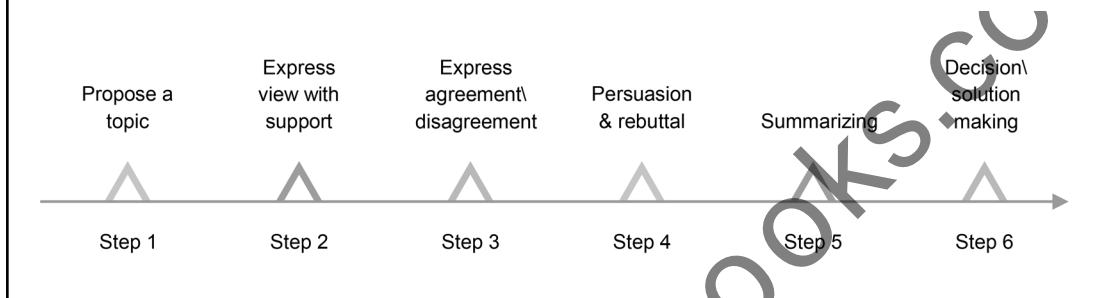
In class activities, group discussion is usually classified into the following three types:

- To exchange opinions on a topic or an issue
- To reach an agreement and make a decision on something
- To solve a problem

No matter which type the discussion belongs to, successful group discussion shares the following common features:

- A clear aim: all participants know the aim of the discussion and try to reach that aim.
- Active interaction: all participants are willing to make contributions to the discussion.

- Effective communication skills: participants are required to apply both verbal and non-verbal languages to express their ideas correctly and effectively.
 - A good leader: one member or each member in turn could take the responsibility of group discussion, organization and summarizing.
- Basically, group discussion would follow this procedure:



Step 2: to apply the skill of proposing a topic

Proposing a discussion topic is the first step of group discussion. In a current issue discussion, topics are usually taken from news reports about a latest issue. Based on your Before-class Task 2 outcome, make practice of proposing a topic with your partners with the help of the following expressions (underlined words could be replaced by your own information):

1) to begin with questions

- Have you heard about the car accident last night?
- Is there any exclusive news in today's China Daily?
- What do you think of the new version of Beauty and Beast?

2) to begin with facts

- At long last, Leonardo DiCaprio has been crowned the best actor.
- The editorial of today's *China Daily* is about G20 Summit. I am puzzled by the ambiguous opinion of the editor.
- This morning, my WeChat moment is flooded with the news about World Cup.
- Watching news about panda's life in Germany is enjoyable.

Task 4: Presentation

1. Reform your team: Leave your own team currently and make up a new group with members from other teams. Make sure there are no more than 2 members from your previous team.
2. Try to propose your previous team's topic as discussion topic to your new partners. Each member of your group should do this job in turn.
3. You have 10 minutes to make preparation and then 1–2 teams will be invited to make public presentation in class.

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After-class Tasks

Task 1: Knowledge Review

Please answer the following questions in your own words:

1. What is a group discussion?
2. What are the features of a good group discussion?
3. What are the main procedures of a group discussion?

Task 2: Oral Practice

Share your answers to **Topic Today Questions** (Before-class Task 1) with your partners to see whether you hold the same opinion. Record your discussion and upload the designated online shared folder. The evaluation rubric could be found in Appendix 4.

Task 3: Vocabulary Practice

Do a mini vocabulary practice via **Quizlet** to examine how well you have mastered the new vocabulary in this unit.

Reflection and Self-assessment

1. I can remember and explain the words about **Media** in English.
 Excellent Good Fair Weak Poor
2. I now become familiar with the current issues about Media.
 Excellent Good Fair Weak Poor
3. I know the basic procedure of group discussion.
 Excellent Good Fair Weak Poor
4. I can propose a topic to my partners in group discussion.
 Excellent Good Fair Weak Poor

Unit 2

Issues on Entertainment



Unit Overview

In this unit, students are going to know some basic information about the roles of a discussant. Additionally, they will learn how to summarize current issues effectively. Students are required to apply vocabulary concerning entertainment into oral communication and do some practice on making summary of current issues in discussion.

Focuses and Difficulties:

Focuses:

1. To understand the roles of a discussant in group discussion.
2. To understand the importance and function of summarizing current issues in group discussion.
3. To expand the vocabulary on entertainment.

Difficulties:

1. How to summarize current issues effectively in group discussion.
2. How to apply new words into group discussion about issues on entertainment.



Before-class Tasks

Task 1: Topic Today

Read the following news article and discuss the questions within your group and write down the answers.

What Seth Meyers learned from doing a year of late night TV during a pandemic



It's been a weird year for Seth Meyers. In fact, it's been a weird year for all of late night TV, not to mention the rest of us.

Like others in the late night world, the host of NBC's "Late Night" had to adjust to the pandemic by working from home — an attic to be precise — when the pandemic first hit last spring.

He's since moved back into his studio at Rockefeller Center, but it's still awkward since there's no audience there to laugh at his jokes.

CNN Business caught up with Meyers to find out what he's learned doing a year of shows during a pandemic, what he hopes it'll be like when studio audiences return, and if he ever took care of his attic's wasp problem from last spring.

This interview has been edited and condensed.

Last time we spoke, you were doing your show from what looked

like an attic in either a Stephen King novel or John Carpenter film.

More King than Carpenter.

Do you ever miss the attic?

No... but when I go to the attic now, which serves only as an actual attic and not a TV studio, I do feel a sense of accomplishment and a fair bit of awe that we managed to do a show in those circumstances.

You're back in the studio, without an audience. What do you think the first show will be like when you have a studio audience again?

That will probably be a far more jarring transition than anything we've gone through yet. Coming back to the studio was nothing but just what we've been doing so much easier because we were surrounded by professional staff again.

I thought, oh my God, going back to the studio is going to be so weird. It was just delightful. Whereas when an audience gets back, the show will just by necessity have a different rhythm to it that we'll have to relearn after so much time away from it.

On Wednesday, [CBS anchor] Gayle King asked you how you're doing without an audience. You smirked and said you're "so happy." It seems like you're really enjoying being in a studio with just your crew.

I am really enjoying it. Now don't get me wrong, I think I will love having an audience back. But for right now and for this very impermanent time — knock on wood — that we're living in, it's been really fun to do the show for 10 people every night, knowing that at large you're doing it for a great many more people than that.

But having that same 10 people has creatively been pretty exhilarating.

Why is that?

I think it's impossible to not have an ear for how things are working for the 180 people that are there night in and night out. With that not being part of the equation, you can sort of turn off the thing that any comedian has, which is judging in real time how the material's going.

If you work just as hard on the material as you always have, and you are definitely writing and doing things that you personally think are funny, and it seems as though people at home also still think it's funny, you just have

more freedom to try things. You don't have to worry about how 180 people on any given night might react to it.

Do you think you're the same host you were before the pandemic?

No, but I would like to think I wasn't the same host a year before the pandemic started either. I think ultimately to do these jobs, the only way it works is if you can sort of evolve — and ideally not because of worldwide pandemics — but just because of the fact that over the course of any given year, you should change some ways.

It was fun to make crazy choices that the audience understood because it was a time where we were all going crazy... You know, I think that if I had started talking to a sea captain painting in normal times that would have been when the phone would have rang from NBC asking, "can you just talk us through this joke?" Whereas you do it during a pandemic and everybody's like, "yeah, man, I've been talking to paintings, too."

What do you think the purpose of late night TV has been during this pandemic?

I think it's sort of the same purpose in that we try every night to fill people in on what happened. It's just that what happened became a little bit more universal because it was affecting everybody.

When you're a talk show host, and not just me but my colleagues as well, people really feel like they know you. And through this year they felt like they knew us even more than before, because they were seeing us in our homes, they were seeing our children, they were seeing our spouses. And so if there is such a thing as a connection with a TV show, I think that probably got strengthened this year.

- Please write a summary for this news.

- Why does the author say it has been a weird year for Seth Meyers?
