

## Facilitating a Philosophy Discussion

We hope that you will use the materials on this website to help your students talk with one another about the important ethical issues raised by the film clips. You may find that, to do so, you will need to modify your normal classroom practice. Remember: the idea is for the children to respond to one another. For this to happen, you cannot be the center of attention.

So once you have read them the question that is on the screen, your role should only be that of a facilitator, someone who keeps the discussing going and helps to refocus it. Other than that, you need to remove yourself from the discussion.

### Do's

- Call attention to really significant statements made by a student. Ask the other students what they think about it.
- Remind the students of the guidelines for a philosophical discussion.
- Ask a student how his or her comment relates to what the previous comment said.

### Don't's

- Rephrase every statement made by a student.
- Tell the students what you think about a question.

It might help to let the student who has made a comment call on the next person to speak. You need to retain the right to intervene. It is also helpful to require that people who have not spoken be called on first and that the person who called on you cannot be called on by you.