**Seminar Group Discussion Explanation**

Group discussions must:

1. Be done in English
2. Give all groupmates a chance to speak
3. Promote an encouraging atmosphere: there are no wrong answers, ideas, stories, or opinions. Discuss any differences.
4. Be recorded (e.g., with an IC recorder) with a write-up
5. Be headed by one person each time (in charge of taking notes, getting the notes and the recording to me, keeping the discussion on track, etc.).
6. Last at minimum 20 minutes long (30 minutes is the target)
7. Stay focused (related tangential topics are fine)

Purpose of the group discussions:

1. Extra English practice outside of class
2. Time to think about some class topics (present/future topics)
3. A way to get to know your classmates
4. A way for me to see how students are progressing (i.e., are they considering topics, are they participating and working well with others, etc.).

Students should have a dictionary with them (but don’t rely on it too much during the discussions). Take notes of things you want to say in English but *do not read your notes*. Check occasionally during the discussion, check later, or ask me in the next class. In short, students should come away from the discussions with (a) practice using English, (b) new vocabulary either used or heard, and (c) new information.

Some preparation for the discussions would be helpful (i.e., prepare handouts or look up information, etc.).