

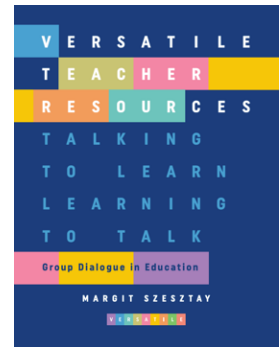


TALKING TO LEARN, LEARNING TO TALK

MARGIT SZESZTAY

ACTIVITY 9

Facilitator roles



Facilitators need to remain neutral; they should not take sides or express their own opinion.

Silent members of a group should be allowed to stay silent – some people learn best by observing.

If a group member is monopolising the floor, the facilitator needs to intervene in the interest of the whole group.

If someone strays off the topic being discussed, the facilitator needs to intervene and bring the discussion back on track.

Maintaining a positive, supportive atmosphere is more important than achieving group goals.

If there is conflict between two members of the group, the best thing is to ignore it and move on.

If one or two people show visible signs of switching off and not listening, the facilitator needs to remind them of the ground rules of working in groups.

Ultimately, the facilitator is responsible for the success or failure of group interaction.
