

# Philosophical Chairs

## Rules of Engagement

1. Be sure you understand the central question or topic before the discussion begins.
2. Prepare for the discussion with the text(s) provided. Find evidence and keep track of your reasoning.
3. Decide which section you will sit in. (The U formation will represent to opposing sides – the straight lines of the U – with the bottom of the U represented a less decided place.)
4. Listen carefully when others speak and seek to understand their arguments even if you don't agree.
5. Wait for the mediator to recognize you before you speak; only one person speaks at a time.
6. You must first summarize briefly the previous speaker's argument before you make your response.
7. If you have spoken for your side, you must wait until three other people on your side speak before you speak again.
8. Be sure that when you speak, you address the ideas, not the person stating them. Use evidence from the text(s) to support your points.
9. Keep an open mind and move to the other side or the undecided section if you feel that someone made a good argument or your opinion is swayed.
10. Support the mediator by maintaining order and helping the discussion to progress.