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Text-Based Seminar Guidelines

Developed by Gene Thompson-Grove.

Purpose

Enlargement of understanding a text, **not** the achievement of some particular understanding.

Ground Rules

- Refer to the text, and challenge others to go to the text. Use page numbers. Wait for others to get to the quote, then read it aloud.
- Listen actively.
- Build on what others say, referring to them by name.
- Don't step on others' talk. Allow for silences and pauses. Make time and space so everyone can participate.
- Converse directly with each other, and let the conversation flow as much as possible — without raising hands or using a speaker's list.
- Make the assumptions underlying your comments explicit to others.
- Ask questions of others in order to build understanding.
- Watch your own air time — both in terms of how often you speak, and in terms of how much you say when you speak.