SPIDER WEB DISCUSSION

The Spider Web Discussion technique allows us to explore bigger questions and hear from all voices.

Directions

Prepare individually for the discussion by completing this reflection about your strengths and struggles as an academic communicator in the three formats listed here. (This will take between five and seven minutes.)

Engaging in Discussion	
Strengths:	Struggles:

Delivering and Attending to Presentations	
Strengths:	Struggles:

Exchanging Academic Feedback	
Strengths:	Struggles:

1. Review the group communication goals as a team.

2. Individually, set a personal communication goal in the following box.

Group Communication Goals	Personal Communication Goal
Share authentically Demonstrate leadership by balancing speaking and listening	

3. Using your group roles for this unit and the Discussion Contribution Key, discuss the prompt. The project manager should draw the web of discussion on an index card or blank piece of paper. The advocate should take notes on the comments people make during the discussion and be prepared to share.

Discussion Prompt: How does a leader communicate?

Discussion Contribution Key

Use the icons to track the types of contributions participants have made in a discussion. Indicate use of evidence by using a + symbol next to the original icon. Use the sentence stems as a resource when making contributions.

Type of Contribution	Icon	Sentence Stems
Raise a new idea.	!	Another idea is . . . I feel _____ because . . . I think _____ because . . .
Build on an idea.	^	I would like to build on what _____ shared by adding . . . Originally I was thinking _____, but now I have reconsidered because . . . I appreciate what you said about _____ because . . .
Challenge an existing idea.	▽	I wonder if, actually, . . . I hear you saying _____, but I was thinking about it differently. I think . . . I had a different idea . . . I hear what _____ is saying, but I disagree because . . .
Ask a clarifying question or summarize discussion.	?	I think I heard you say _____. Is that right? Could you explain more about what you meant when you said _____? I was confused when you said _____ because . . . Could you please clarify what you meant?
Ask a thinking question.	??	When you said _____, it made me think of . . . What do you think? Would you go further by saying . . . ? Why do you think that?
Facilitate further discussion.	*	I am curious what you think, [Name]. I wonder if there is anyone who hasn't shared yet. Who has a different perspective and wants to contribute?
Make connections.	↔	I noticed a difference in opinion between what [Name] and [Name] said, and it makes me wonder . . . I think the comments that [Name] and [Name] made connect to each other because . . .