

COLLABORATIVE DISCUSSION GUIDE

WE CAN'T THINK DEEPLY WHEN WE'RE MEASURING OURSELVES
AGAINST EACH OTHER

WE THINK DEEPLY WHEN WE'RE THINKING *WITH* EACH OTHER.

1

Bring in a specific line or passage that hasn't been mentioned yet and explain what it reveals

- "There's a moment we haven't discussed yet that might shed light on this—when Wordsworth writes..."
- "The article mentions a concept on page ____ that might illuminate..."

2

Point out a pattern across multiple texts (imagery, terminology, rhetorical moves)

- "There seems to be recurring imagery across both scenes (readings) about..."
- "Both the play and Shakespeare's sonnet emphasize..."

3

Build directly on someone else's point by adding evidence or analysis

- "To extend [name]'s point, there's also..."
- "That reading makes me think of how the research article frames..."

4

Ask a follow-up question that pushes our collective thinking deeper

- "How does [name's idea] connect to what we discussed last week about...?"
- "How does [name's] reading change if we also consider...?"

5

Play the skeptic to an interpretation that seems widely accepted

- "What if we challenge [name's] assumption by ..."
- "Can we test [name's] idea against..."
- "I hear [name's] point, but wonder if we can consider a counterargument..."

6

Connect a moment in the text to its historical/cultural context

"Given Elizabethan attitudes toward..., this scene might have resonated differently because..."

~~“I just feel like”~~

~~“I just think”~~

The “I just” construction minimizes our contribution before we’ve even made it!

It signals apologetic uncertainty rather than scholarly humility.

Instead, try:

“This is provisional, but...”

“Building on what [name] said...”

“One way to read this might be...”

“Isn’t there a tension between... and...?”

“Could the poem also suggest...”

“Could this article’s framework help us understand...”