Learn more about classroom discussions and the five stages of the discussion process from Questioning for Classroom Discussion: Purposeful Speaking, Engaged Listening, Deep Thinking.

PREPARE
- Identify an issue for discussion, frame the focus question, determine skills to spotlight, and assign prep work.

OPEN
- After determining the focus question, kick-off your discussion and make sure players understand the “rules of the game.”
- Listen to understand, scaffold with questions, and monitor students’ participation in the discussion.

SUSTAIN
- Facilitate student assessment of their learning and use of discussion skills; reflect on the quality of the focus question and discussion processes.

REFLECT
- Help students consolidate their thinking and identify any unanswered questions.

CLOSE
- After determining the focus question, kick-off your discussion and make sure players understand the “rules of the game.”

Source: Adapted from Questioning for Classroom Discussion: Purposeful Speaking, Engaged Listening, Deep Thinking, by Jackie Acree Walsh and Beth Dankert Sattes, Alexandria, VA: ASCD. © 2015 by ASCD. All rights reserved.