

### Atmosphere and Expectations



Writing courses at Lane are welcoming communities of readers, writers, and speakers in which participants can “**engage in and value a respectful and free exchange of ideas.**”

Research in education has demonstrated that students gain multiple benefits from **active engagement** in classroom discussion, including:

- heightened **learning** and better **understanding** of course content
- improved ability to **communicate** ideas and meanings clearly **to varied audiences**
- enhanced ability **synthesize** and **integrate** complex concepts and theories
- improved capacity recognize and investigate your own assumptions
- increased opportunity to **understand and engage with a diversity of people and perspectives**

In discussion, all class members should plan to help facilitate the **creation and maintenance of this kind of community**. Some people gain energy from speaking in class, while others find it takes energy to do so. Some people love talking in big groups while others prefer small groups. Some feel most confident communicating orally; others like the written form. In general, students benefit the most from a classroom environment in which they respect others' styles of **communication** while at the same time challenging themselves to participate actively and productively in discussion.