

GD Interview Group Discussion: What Are Common Mistakes in the GDGroup Discussion

Examrace Placement Series prepares you for the toughest placement exams to top companies.

Who Learn's from mistake's is the won who has the wisdom, and who repeats mistake is the one who does not.

Here's a list of the most common mistakes made at group discussions

Emotional outburst

Neha was offended when one of the male participants in a group discussion made a statement on women generally being submissive while explaining his point of view. When Neha finally got an opportunity to speak, instead of focussing on the topic, she vented her anger by accusing the other candidate for being a male chauvinist and went on to defend women in general.

What Neha essentially did was to

Deviate from the subject.

Treat the discussion as a forum to air her own views.

Lose objectivity and make personal attacks.

Her behaviour would have been perceived as immature and demotivating to the rest of the team.

Quality Vs Quantity

Gautam believed that the more he talked, the more likely he was to get through the GD. So, he interrupted other people at every opportunity. He did this so often that the other candidates got together to prevent him from participating in the rest of the discussion.

Assessment is not only on your communication skills but also on your ability to be a team player.

Evaluation is based on quality, and not on quantity. Your contribution must be relevant.

The mantra is "Contributing meaningfully to the team's success." Domination is frowned upon:

Egotism Showing off

Krishna was happy to have got a group discussion topic he had prepared for. So, he took pains to project his vast knowledge of the topic. Every other sentence of his contained statistical data- "20% of companies; 24.27% of parliamentarians felt that; I recently read in a Jupiter Report that..." and so on so forth. Soon, the rest of the team either laughed at him or ignored his attempts to enlighten them as they perceived that he was cooking up the data.

Exercise restraint in anything. You will end up being frowned upon if you attempt showing-off your knowledge.

Facts and figures need not validate all your statements.

Its your analysis and interpretation that are equally important-not just facts and figures.

You might be appreciated for your in-depth knowledge. But you will fail miserably in your people skills.

Such a behavior indicates how self-centered you are and highlights your inability to work in an atmosphere where different opinions are expressed.

Get noticed-But for the right reasons

Srikumar knew that everyone would compete to initiate the discussion. So as soon as the topic- "Discuss the negative effects of India joining the WTO" -was read out, he began talking. In his anxiety to be the first to start speaking, he did not hear the word "negative" in the topic. He began discussing the ways in which the country had benefited by joining WTO, only to be stopped by the evaluator, who then corrected his mistake.

False starts are extremely expensive. They cost you your admission. It is very important to listen and understand the topic before you air your opinions.

Spending a little time analyzing the topic may provide you with insights which others may not have thought about. Use a pen and paper to jot down your ideas.

Listen! It gives you the time to conceptualize and present the information in a better manner.

Some mistakes are irreparable. Starting off the group discussion with a mistake is one such mistake, unless you have a great sense of humor.

Managing one's insecurities

Sumati was very nervous. She thought that some of the other candidates were exceptionally good. Thanks to her insecurity, she contributed little to the discussion. Even when she was asked to comment on a particular point, she preferred to remain silent.

Your personality is also being evaluated. Your verbal and non verbal cues are being read.

Remember, you are the participant in the GD; not the evaluator. So, rather than evaluating others and your performance, participate in the discussion.

Your confidence level is being evaluated. Decent communication skills with good confidence is a must to crack the GDs.

Focus on your strengths and do not spend too much time thinking about how others are superior or inferior to you. It is easy to pick up these cues from your body language.

How to improve Skills for the GD (Group Discussion)?

Visit examrace.com for free study material, doorsteptutor.com for questions with detailed explanations, and "Examrace" YouTube channel for free videos lectures

Asking questions and joining in discussions are important skills for university study. If you find it difficult to speak or ask questions even during the tutorials, try the following strategies.

Observe

Attend as many seminars and tutorials as possible and notice what other students do. Ask yourself:

How do other students make critical comments?

How do they ask questions?

How do they disagree with or support arguments?

What special phrases do they use to show politeness even when they are voicing disagreement?

How do they signal to interrupt, ask a question or make a point?

Practice

Start practicing your discussion skills in an informal setting or with a small group. Start with asking questions of fellow students. Ask them about the course material. Ask for their opinions. Ask for information or ask for help.

Participate

Take every opportunity to take part in social/informal discussions as well as more structured/formal discussion. Start by making small contributions to tutorial discussions; prepare a question to ask, or agree with another speaker's remarks.