

Facilitator Tips

When Ignorance Governs | Stephen M. Fry

Prepare

Ask each participant to bring one passage or chapter reference and one genuine question. Choose a time limit for opening remarks so everyone can speak. Invite participants to distinguish firsthand evidence, the author's interpretation, and their own response.

Open the room

Begin with a concrete question: Which chapter changed or sharpened your understanding? Then ask what in the chapter produced that change. Avoid starting with a broad referendum on every political event in the news.

When disagreement arises

Restate the point of disagreement neutrally. Ask what evidence would help resolve it. If the group cannot settle a fact during the meeting, record it for later checking rather than forcing a verdict. A participant may reject an interpretation while accepting the underlying event.

Close with purpose

Ask each reader to name one claim they want to verify, one institution they intend to follow more closely, and one question they would ask the author. If sharing a group summary, distinguish the book's claims from the group's conclusions.