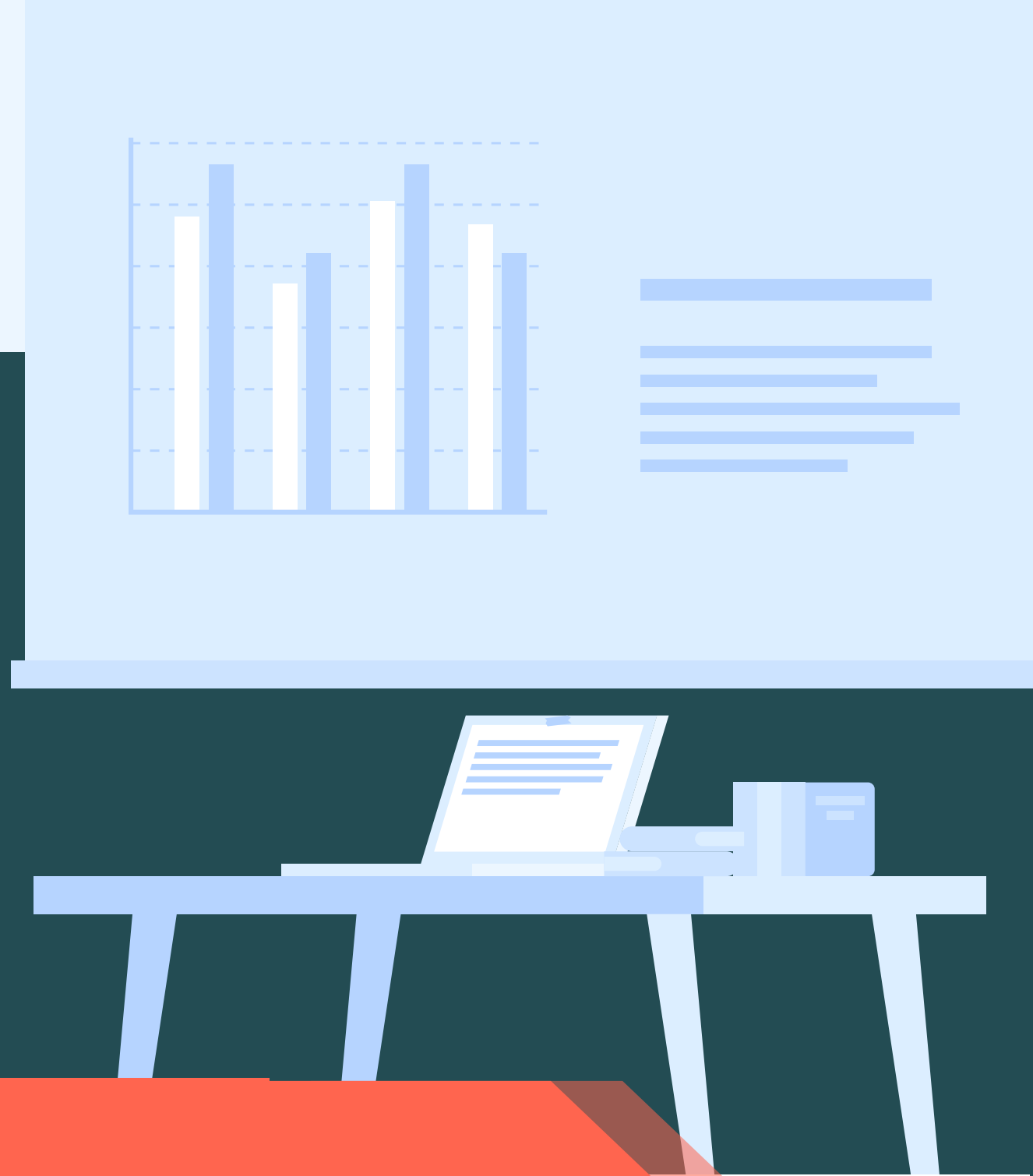




# Creating Discussion Opportunities



## Meaningful discourse is...

The ability of learners to demonstrate **critical thinking skills** by (a) relating course content to prior knowledge and experience, (b) interpreting content through the analysis, synthesis, and evaluation of others' understanding, and (c) making inferences.



### Growing Meaningful Discourse

Meaningful discourse doesn't happen overnight. It needs to be cultivated by creating well-crafted discussion questions that allow students to participate and create thoughtful answers.



## Creating Space and Opportunity by...

- posing questions and tasks that engage and challenge each student's thinking.
- asking students to clarify and justify ideas and concepts.
- encouraging and accepting multiple answers/partial answers and asking to build onto or complete.
- deciding when to provide information, when to clarify an issue, when to model, when to lead and when to let students wrestle with difficulty.
- monitoring participation and encouraging each student to participate.



## Creating Questions...



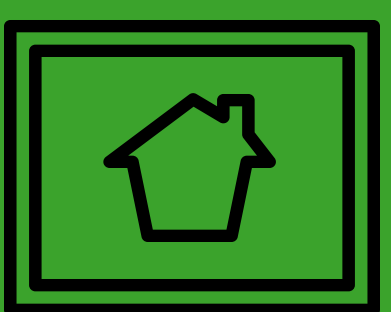
Do not ask only yes or no questions.

Do not ask only factual questions.



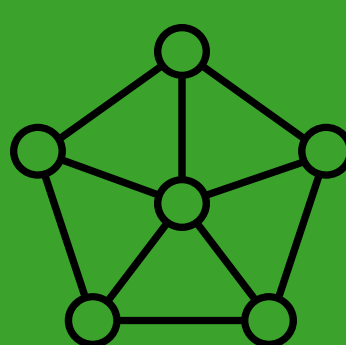
Ask questions that target reflection, interpretation, analysis, or problem-solving.

Ask questions that solicit relevant experiences and opinions by tapping into prior knowledge.



Ask questions that encourage students to engage with other students in the class by using framing.

Ask questions that require connections to be drawn between past and present course materials



Ask questions that prompt students to generate lists of information or create research or data together.