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Subject: Business Communication (B.A 1st Year)  
Unit - III

Topic: Myths Regarding Group Discussion

The following misconceptions myths should be removed to succeed in a group discussion.

- ① You should be aggressive: Most candidates go to a group discussion with the false notion that they must grab the initiative to be heard. Of course, you should be audible, but that does not mean you have to shout or prevent others from speaking! You are not contesting an election campaign. You are simply involved in a conversation and do not need to shout to make your presence felt. Moreover "grabbing the initiative" does not mean that you begin the discussion for the sake of it. On the other hand, by giving others a chance to begin, you exhibit leadership skills, as well as an extrovert, co-operative nature. It also provides you an opportunity to gauge your "advantage" by giving you a definite edge over them.

## ② You should speak more

Remember, the listener is always in an advantageous position compared to the speaker. Although you have to speak in a group discussion, you must speak to the point. Don't unnecessarily stretch your points and become repetitive or you will project a negative image of yourself. You should speak the most relevant points within the time limit of one and a half to two minutes. The best way to ensure this is to have fairly good knowledge on the topic being discussed. In this regard, it is easier to quote examples based on facts and figures. For instance, if the topic is electronic media vs print media, you should know how many households in India have televisions and the circulation of some well-known national newspapers.

## ③ You should speak in favour

There is no thumb rule that if you are speaking in favour of a topic you have a positive outlook. You should feel comfortable and natural while discussing a topic. Most individuals feel if they speak in favour of a topic, they stand a better chance of being selected. Often a person conducting a group discussion can give

a very abstract or formal topic.

#### ④ You should cut down your opponents

As already mentioned, listening is a better communication skill than speaking. Don't interrupt the speakers. If they speak first, it is good for you, especially if you are not familiar with the topic. Moreover, if the speakers speak illogically, it goes in your favor. Besides, even if you have spoken well, but keep interrupting the other participants, it ~~shows~~ speaks volumes about your inherent insecurity. Let the speaker commit mistakes by speaking senselessly, rather than your interrupting the speaker. You win by default if the other speaker is off the mark.