



# Start a Discussion Group

Recommended for: **HIGH INTEREST LEVELS**

## 1. Meeting Place

- a. **Decide on a time and a place** with your club members to meet for a Microfinance discussion group. We suggest you meet at the same time and place once a week during the month of April and plan to spend 45min-1 hour per meeting.

## 2. Pick the Reading

- a. **Decide on the reading materials** to discuss. Suggestion: One book (or a few chapters of the book), or multiple articles related to microfinance. See [our suggestions](#).
- b. **Plan to have people read a max** of 1 hour per week. Break down the reading into three sections and have a "syllabus" of the assigned reading to give to your group members on the first meeting.

## 3. Advertise

- a. **Talk to your club members, classmates, and friends.** Let them know about the Microfinance discussion group you are putting on. Give them the details on the when and the where-- make a few flyers. If you're in college, especially advertise to students in economics, politics, and international affairs.

## 4. Discussion Facilitator

- a. **Assign a club member to facilitate the conversation** before each meeting. Be sure that you are familiar with the term "microfinance", and can help explain it on the first meeting to others.
- b. **The First Meeting:** On the first meeting, there will be no reading assignment to discuss. General questions to start with:
  - What are your career goals and interests?
  - What do you want to get out of the discussion club- why did you show up?
  - What's your current level of knowledge about microfinance?
  - What do you think about microfinance? Is it helpful? Does it help get rid of poverty?
- c. **Future Meetings:** Keep the conversation going with broad questions. Try some of these:
  - What are the differences between profit and client driven microfinance? What are the pros and cons of each?
  - What is the general idea of the article/book chapter? How would you explain the concepts to a friend or another student?
  - Was the author critical or supportive of microfinance?
  - Was the author's argument or information well explained?
  - What concepts "work", which ones do not? How can it be improved?