

McCarthy Clip 1

[These facilitator notes provide commentary and ideas that might be helpful as you use these raw video clips with other educators.]

There are a few things that really stood out to us in this intro. The obvious one is that the professor is empowering students to open and frame the class. We note that he does so immediately, without basically any preamble or initial framing. We also note how the student provokers (what McCarthy calls these students who kick off the conversation with a provocation—they can redirect the conversation in key moments) really ground the discussion in the text from the start, including giving time to read a few key excerpts. We also note how they connect the topics of the course to current events, in this case the election of Trump. How often do you try to make these connections? Do you have any rules of thumb for how often and for what topics? We also really appreciate the preparation of the students, which in our opinion shines through. They have a good framing, they have a good plan, and they are clear and concise in implementing it. As you can see if you watch various instructional moves from McCarty on the website, he spends a lot of time individually and collectively preparing students for their roles as discussion leaders. Might discussion leadership by students be something you try?