

McCarthy Clip 2

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

After the student “provokers” kick off the conversation, we note that McCarthy calls on four students in a row. All of the students make substantive contributions, and McCarthy says nothing and takes notes. After the four contributions, McCarthy makes an observation and asks a question. We also note that a student pushes back on his observation, which leads him to clarify. Is this kind of pushback something that is welcome in your class? And after that intervention, we see two more students contribute thoughts—it might be worth knowing that eight students participate before McCarthy makes his next substantive contribution, which is again a question. In our experience, it is relatively uncommon for an instructor to cede so much control of the discussion to the students. Do you think it is effective, based on what you’ve seen of McCarthy’s teaching so far?