



DISCUSSION

Speaking in Professional Contexts

DISCUSSION SKILLS

Session 1

- Presenting ideas and asking for opinion
- Supporting ideas
- Agreeing/disagreeing
- Interrupting
- Asking someone not to interrupt
- Persuading
- Delivering a presentation

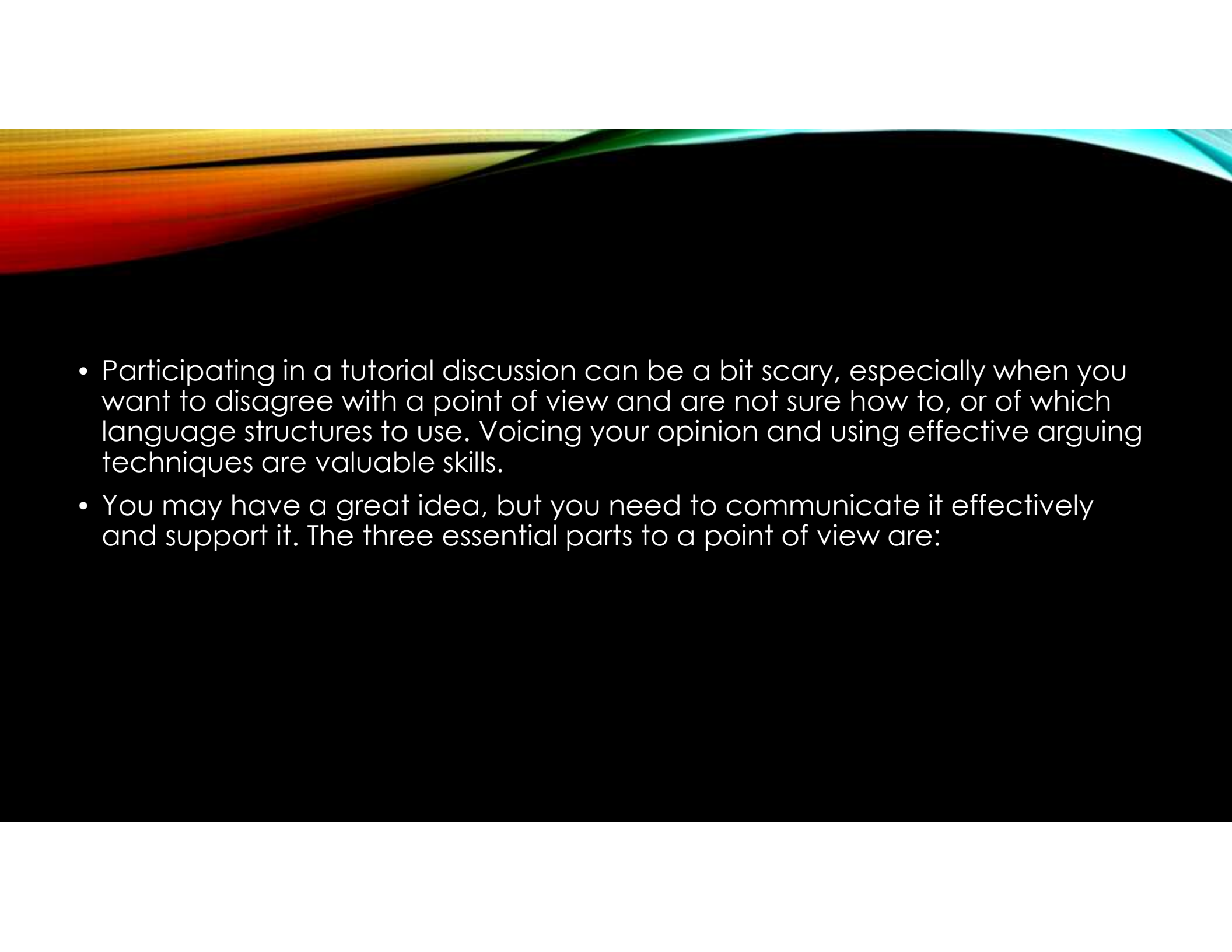
How identifying problems, giving and responding to suggestions/solutions are done through having a debate.

NOW

Session 2

- Identifying problems (aka MOTION)
- Giving suggestions, solutions, and responding to solutions

**DEBATING
(BUILDING ARGUMENTS)**

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- Participating in a tutorial discussion can be a bit scary, especially when you want to disagree with a point of view and are not sure how to, or of which language structures to use. Voicing your opinion and using effective arguing techniques are valuable skills.
 - You may have a great idea, but you need to communicate it effectively and support it. The three essential parts to a point of view are:

VOICING AN OPINION/SOLUTION/SUGGESTION

Three Steps to Voicing an Opinion	
1. A valid opinion (a believable point of view)	• I believe that ... • I think that ... • From what I understand ... • As I understand it ...
2. A reason why	• This is due to ... • Because ... • What I mean by this is ...
3. Evidence (relevant and up-to-date examples, statistics, explanations and/ or expert opinions). If you have actual data, examples or expert opinions on hand, refer to the	• This can be seen by ... • For instance ... • For example ... • An example can be seen ... • (Author's name) states that ... • (Author's name) suggests...

'Arguing' at Uni: How to disagree effectively

Disagreeing can be problematic as people often speak before they think things through. You may be trying to disprove another speaker's point, but it is also important to disagree politely.

Three steps to use when disagreeing with another speaker

1. Acknowledge their thoughts/ ideas	• I can see your point - however ... • That's a good point, but ... • I see what you're getting at/ where you're coming from, but ... • I see what you mean - however...
2. Then explain why you disagree	• That's not always the case because ... • That's not necessarily true because ... • This idea isn't supported by statistics/ evidence ... • I thought the author meant that ...
3. Offer your opinion complete with reason and support	• From what I've read ... • The statistics seem to indicate that ... • I think what (author's name) may actually be suggesting is ... • Other studies by (author's name) show that ...