**Conversational Moves**

“Conversational moves” strengthen connections among groups members and emphasize discussion as a collaborative process. To become an effective researcher and interview, consider practicing some of these moves during your conversations.

Ask a question or make a comment that shows you are interested in what another person has said

Ask a question or make a comment that encourages someone else to elaborate on something that person has said

Make a comment that underscores the link between two people’s contributions. Make this link explicit in your comment.

Use body language (in a slightly exaggerated way) to show interest in what different speakers are saying

Make a comment indicating that you found another person’s ideas interesting or useful. Be specific as to why this was the case.

Contribute something that builds on or springs from what someone else has said. Be explicit about the way you are building on the other person’s thoughts.

Make a comment that at least partly paraphrases a point someone has already made.

Make a summary observation that takes into account several peoples’ contributions and that touches on a recurring theme in the conversation.

Ask a cause-and-effect question—for example, “Can you explain why you think it’s true that if these things are in place, such and such a thing will occur?”

At an appropriate moment, ask the group for five minutes silence to slow the pace of conversation and give you and others time to think.

Find a way to express appreciation for the enlightenment you have gained from the discussion. Try to be specific about what it was that helped you understand something better.

Disagree with someone in a respectful and constructive way.