

## ANGLICKÉ OKÉNKO 25

### According to and in my opinion

**Don't say:** *According to me*, Ann's boyfriend is a fool.

**Say:** *In my opinion*, Ann's boyfriend is a fool.

**According to** X means 'in X's opinion', 'if what X says is true'.

We do not usually give our own opinions with *according to*. We use 'in my opinion' instead.



### Leading a successful discussion



The following tips can help a discussion leader be successful from the beginning.

1. Energetic **Commitment** to the **Topic**. Your enthusiasm is **contagious**. If you think the topic is really interesting, others will.
2. Positive Atmosphere. Welcoming everyone, getting to know peoples' names, and getting people to get to know each other, will help everyone feel at home. Food never hurts ☺
3. It's Not About You. Don't feel nervous about what others will think. This discussion is about the topic itself, not about you.
4. Be Prepared. The discussion leader should be prepared but others should also prepare.
5. Don't Expect Perfection. Discussion leading is never perfect, it improves with time.
6. During the first five minutes review key points and get the group to focus on the topic of the day.
7. When people disagree, it is **essential** that no one feels personally **threatened** or **devalued**.
8. When you disagree with a person listen to them first, then try to repeat back their main idea: "Do I understand correctly that you are saying.....?" In such a way, you have a chance to say, "Yes, that's right," or "No, what I meant was....". This process may allow both sides to modify their views and communicate better.
9. **Share Responsibility** and Build **Continuity**. In the last five minutes of each discussion, **encourage** the group to identify the most important key points and the ideals that they would most like to **follow up on**. Use these ideas to help **shape** future discussions.

### VOCABULARY BUILDING

**commitment** – oddanost  
**a topic** – námět, téma, předmět (hovoru)  
**contagious** – nakažlivý  
**essential** – základní, nejdůležitější  
**threatened** – ohrožený  
**devalued** – znehodnocený  
**to share responsibility** – sdílet odpovědnost

**continuity** – kontinuita  
**encourage** – povzbudit  
**key points** – hlavní body  
**to follow up on** – navázat na  
**shape** – tvarovat



### QUIZ

**Complete these sentences with *according to* or *in my opinion*.**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ the police, his attackers beat him with a blunt instrument.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ his first book is much better.
3. The train gets in an 8.27, \_\_\_\_\_ the timetable.
4. \_\_\_\_\_, the law must be changed.
5. Everything went \_\_\_\_\_ plan, and we arrived on time.



Key: 1. According to, 2. In my opinion, 3. according to, 4. In my opinion, 5. according to