**Activity 5: The Scholarly Conversation—True or False?**

**Purpose of this assignment:** The goal of this activity is to introduce you to the concept of the scholarly conversation and help you develop a greater understanding of who is involved and what their roles are. This activity will help you describe the concept of the “scholarly conversation”, recognize that you are often entering into an ongoing conversation and not a finished one, recognize that scholarly conversations take place in various venues, and start to see yourself as potential contributors to scholarly conversations rather than merely a consumer.

**How does it fit within the entire project?** As a researcher yourself, you will be consuming scholarship (through your readings), will have to learn to be critical to it, and will be contributing to it with the product of your research. You should learn how to navigate scholarship, learn the codes of the conversation, and make your place in it.

**Tasks required:** Complete the activity below.

**Deliverable:** Completed version of this handout uploaded to [LMS] by [deadline] (one per group).

**Estimated time:** [to determine based on the number of statements given to the students]

**Group work or individual work?** Group work.

**Notes to instructor:**

* This activity was modified from an activity originally developed by [Jane Hammons](https://library.osu.edu/people/hammons.73).
* Divide students into pairs or small groups.
* You should customize the list of statements for your discipline/CURE.
* This activity is intended as an in-class activity including a class-wide synthesis and discussion after students have completed question 2.

**Step-by-step:**

Consider the list of statements below:

* Scholars engage in ongoing debates or discussions through their work
* Each source you use in a research paper represents a “voice” in a scholarly conversation
* For most scholarly topics, there is one clear, right answer
* As a student, you are not allowed to insert your own voice into the scholarly conversations in your field
* Providing citations is a requirement of engaging in the scholarly conversations in your field
* Reading recent journal articles can help you to track the scholarly conversations in your field

1. ON YOUR OWN first, consider each of the statements above. Which one(s) do you agree with? Articulate in a single sentence your reasoning/justification.
2. Review and discuss the statements as a group. Consider the following follow-up questions as you prepare a series of short statements summarizing the group consensus on each of the statements above. You should be ready to present your work to the whole class.
   * How do you see your role in the scholarly conversations on your topic?
   * How else might you learn about the conversations that are taking place in the field?
   * What role do citations play as part of the conversations? How does this compare from your own view of why citations are necessary?
3. ON YOUR OWN, write a definition of the concept of the “scholarly conversation.”
4. Compare your conversation with your teammate(s). What would the group consider to be your definition of a “scholarly conversation.”