

## The Kiva Procedure and Rubric

### The Idea of the Kiva:

This is a mode of communication taken from an American Indian group called the Hopis. A *Kiva* is actually a circle that is sunk into the earth over which a roof is built; it is a type of lodge. In our adaptation of a *Kiva*, there exists an inner "talking circle" and an outer "listening circle." Those on the inside of the circle define the course of the discussion; they discuss what is important to them. Those on the outside of the circle listen and take notes. They may bring ideas already discussed into the talking circle if they have something more to say about them. They may talk about something completely new upon entering the circle; the choice is theirs. Topics, issues and themes that are important should crop up and recur. People on the outside of the circle will be recording them. At the end, we will get together and brainstorm the recurring topics, issues and themes and see what we have come up with. Below are the rules of the *Kiva* and the grading rubric that I will use to assess your performance. The grading rubric is a necessary evil. If I do not include it, I fear that some people may crouch in the shadows of shyness and say nothing. The *Kiva* is intended as a place to voice thoughts; it does not work when people do not speak. View the grading rubric as my way of encouraging you to speak. Below are basic guidelines that fade away if you provide sufficient effort.

### Kiva Rules:

- Those on the outside of the circle cannot say anything. They must listen and take notes.
- Those on the inside of the circle will talk.
- There will be three opportunities of ten minutes each to speak in a group
- You define the topics discussed
- You are forced to participate only insofar as your grade is concerned