

## Testimonials by Great Ideas Discussion Group Members

I find the group to be a refreshing place to have real intellectual discourse about the great ideas of western thought. Our group has extremely lively and interesting discussions in an atmosphere of group cohesiveness. The members of the group respect one another and we all, therefore, expand our own thinking by listening to the thoughts of others. I highly recommend this group to others who are interested in keeping an active and inquiring mind.

- Sunya Plattner

I've been attending the Great Ideas discussion group for over two years and have always found the sessions to be lively and provocative. The facilitator is well-versed in the range of Great Ideas. He guides the conversations with questions that serve to coordinate attention to the heart of the issues. He also succeeds well in modeling a multi-perspective approach that avoids temptations to advance particular religious or political agendas. The focus is always on open inquiry with a genuine interest in exploring the various views great thinkers held in relation to the Great Ideas and how the content of these ideas continues to be crucially relevant to the quality of life in current times. I can highly recommend these sessions for those from all walks of life, regardless of occupation or level of education. For as Adler once said, "Philosophy is everybody's business . . . and is indispensable to understanding ourselves, our society, and the world in which we live."

- Greg Desilet

Stimulating conversation! A must if you enjoy expanding your understanding of mankind.

- Charlie Krinsky

The Great Ideas Discussion Group is a mind opening experience for those forming their perspective on the world. The open discussion of deep issues in a calm manner is not readily found anywhere else. The moderator, is wonderful at keeping the group on the current topic. His enthusiasm for this program shines and keeps things moving.

- Mary Mueller

My reaction to the Great Ideas Discussion Group at the Boulder Public Library has been strongly positive.

At first I had some doubts about the use of Aquinas and Aristotle as the main starting points for analysis and discussion. They are not my favorite philosophers - too much emphasis on taxonomy and putting names on things. But their view turns out to be surprisingly good for getting a reasoned discussion

going. I like the emphasis on promoting a dialectical process; it does stimulate thought. Also, I like the notion of pursuing a particular major idea in depth. There are not too many forums available for this kind of endeavor nowadays.

I believe, too, that the discussion group leader makes a lot of difference. He conveys a sense of enthusiasm and curiosity about the topics under consideration. Also, his good humor and friendliness put people at ease.  
- Johann Stoyva, Ph.D.

I have never read the great books selections before. I really enjoy the great ideas. I like being able to focus solely on one great idea, and reading what the great authors had to say about it. It allows you to delve deeply into one subject. It is helpful to me to read the reading selection and then watch the video. The video further clarifies any questions I had, or clears up things I didn't understand. The two in combination make it more meaningful.  
- Pam Hansen

I am 72 years old and have been interested in the Great Books for many years. The Great Ideas group in Boulder has been for me an effective and stimulating platform for the discussion of one great idea. Mortimer Adler's video, the printed material and the facilitator's firm but flexible approach, all contribute to a rewarding experience.  
- Neil Magee

I am glad that our facilitator asked me to describe the personal benefits that the Great Ideas discussion provides me. Ever since I acquired a mental handicap at age 19, I have striven to improve my deficit. The Great Ideas discussion group provides me a chance to develop my critical thinking and communication skills. Furthermore, it gives me insight into human nature and society, insight which I feel is most necessary for me.  
- Damian Cucirell