



YOU PART

Engage. Connect. Empower

FISHBOWL DISCUSSION

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FISHBOWL DISCUSSION

FACTS

Age of participants: Varied - Anyone can participate. The methodology is flexible and can be tailored to suit the age and maturity of the participants involved. (12+)

Number of participants: From 10 to 20 people or more.

Duration: 30 minutes to 1 hour.

In general, the “Fishbowl Discussion” method is flexible, suitable for all ages, participant numbers, and durations to match specific needs and contexts.

GOALS

The goals of “Fishbowl Discussion” are to promote in-depth conversation, active listening and diverse perspectives on a specific topic or issue.

TOPICS

The “Fishbowl Discussion” fosters meaningful dialogue within a group. Participants sit in two circles, with the speaker/s in the center talking while others listen. Afterwards listeners can engage in discussion, comment and ask questions. This method encourages critical thinking, collaboration, problem-solving and real-world applications. It also raises awareness of social and political issues, empowering young people to become active and engaged citizens.

“Fishbowl Discussion” can be used with various topics and in different settings, including classrooms, workshops, team meetings, training sessions and community discussions. It is a versatile strategy that can be applied to almost any subject or issue where meaningful group conversation and diverse viewpoints are essential.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR THE FACILITATOR

As a facilitator of a “Fishbowl Discussion”, there are several key points to consider ensuring that the session runs smoothly and achieves its goals:

- Choose a relevant topic
- Set ground rules for respectful discussion
- Explain the format to participants
- Encourage active participation
- Manage time effectively
- Summarize key insights afterward
- Gather feedback for improvement

MATERIALS

As a facilitator of a “Fishbowl Discussion”, you won't need many materials. Here are the essentials:

- Topic and discussion questions
- Chairs or seating arrangement (two circles)
- Timer or clock
- Optional: Flipchart or whiteboard with markers
- Optional: Feedback forms

PREPARATIONS

To prepare for a successful meeting, the moderator should first select a relevant topic, formulate discussion questions, set ground rules, determine the seating arrangement, explain the format and organise the time. Optionally, flipcharts or feedback sheets can be prepared.

INSTRUCTIONS

Step 1 – choose a relevant topic

Select an engaging topic for the discussion.

Step 2 – craft discussion questions

Prepare open-ended questions to guide the conversation. (e.g topic: Climate Change)

Q1: How can government policies combat climate change, and what kind of effect may they have?

Q2: What simple steps can individuals take on a daily basis to reduce their carbon footprint and fight climate change?

Q3: In what ways can youth impact local, national, and global climate policies?

Step 3 – set ground rules

Establish respectful communication and active listening rules.

Step 4 – arrange seating

Set up two circles - an inner circle for speakers, an outer circle for observers.

Step 5 – explain the format

Briefly explain the Fishbowl Discussion setup.

Step 6– manage time

Allocate sufficient time and use a timer if needed.

Step 7 – start the discussion

Begin with one of the prepared questions.

Step 8 – facilitate and rotate

Begin with one of the prepared questions.

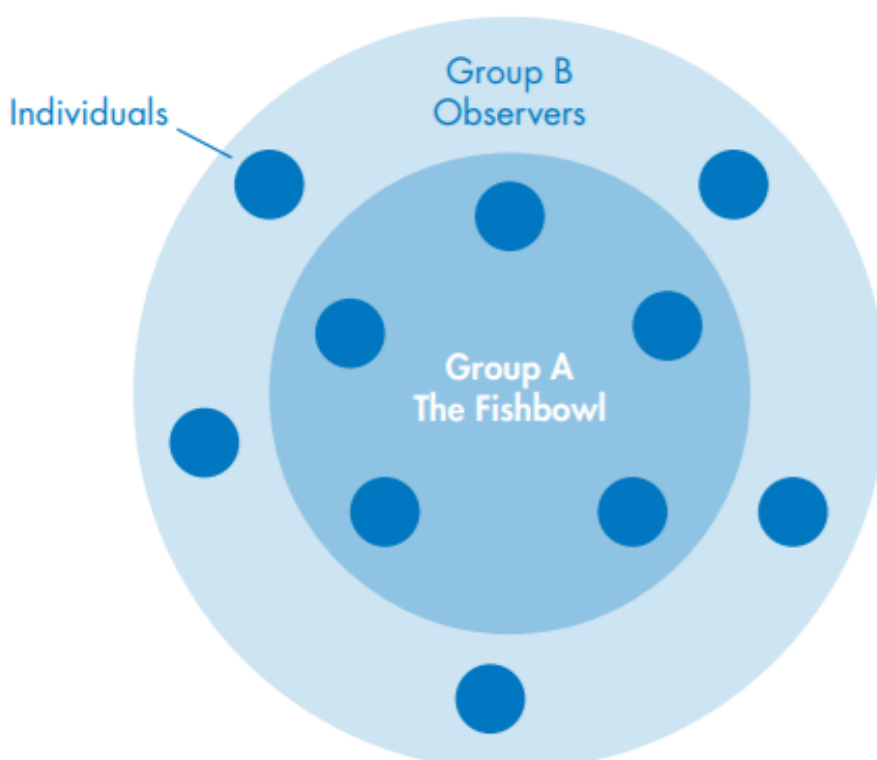
Step 9 – summarise key insights

Guide the discussion, invite observers to join, and allow voluntary rotations.

Step 10 – debrief and gather feedback (optional)

Discuss the experience and gather participants' input.

With these simplified steps, you can successfully implement the “Fishbowl Discussion” methodology and promote meaningful and engaging group conversations on your chosen topic.





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PROJECT PARTNERS



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