

Guidelines for Group Facilitation

Each Tuesday, one group will lead a class discussion of that week's selected study from the class packet. The discussion should last no longer than 30 minutes. Leading 40+ individuals in a well-structured and on-point discussion can be challenging. Below are some strategies to consider using.



Purposes

- To allow your classmates to come to a better understanding of the selected study by critically assessing the formation of research questions, the research method, and the research results
- To promote participation by as many of your classmates as possible

Strategies

- Orient the group: Keep in mind that some of your classmates may have read the article a few days ago; therefore, you may want to take 2-3 minutes (no more!) to refresh your classmates' memories of the study's research questions, methods, and results.
- Be focused: Have a vision of how class discussion will proceed and what specific aspects of the study you hope to analyze. (For example, it will be impossible to cover 15 questions in 30-minute discussion.) Remember that the purpose is to delve into the selected study, not to connect the study with personal experience. Structure the questions accordingly.
- Be clear: Make the discussion questions accessible to your classmates by using PowerPoint or the document projector, or by creating a handout.
- Promote participation: To promote participation by as many of your classmates as possible, consider using the following strategies:
 - *Elicit Questions*: Prior to class discussion (e.g., Monday by 8:00 am), have your classmates send you 2-3 questions or critiques they had about the study. Choose the most relevant on which to base your discussion, theming your discussion on the research question formation, methods, and results.
 - *Create a Debate*: Design a short true/false quiz about particular aspects of the selected study. After each individual completes the quiz, commence large group discussion in debate format. (Note: Craft statements carefully, centering on issues of research question formation, study design, data analysis measures, or conclusions.)
 - *Think/Pair/Share*: Give students 1-2 minutes to think about a question (or questions) individually, 3-4 minutes to discuss with a partner, and then share with the class.
 - *Small Group Discussion*: Have your classmates discuss questions in small groups before discussing as a whole class. You may choose to assign each group 1 particular question or a sub-group of questions related to research questions, methods, or results, and have that group report back to the whole group. Be sure to tell groups how many minutes they are to discuss and what they are expected to share by the end of their discussion time.