

Student-led sessions

Resources to get you started

Read the [Assignment Instructions for the Student-led Sessions](#) for some guiding questions that you should keep in mind, and check the requirements for your submissions ('Initial Idea' and 'Session Plan'). Below you can find a list of resources that introduces some participatory discussion methods to help facilitate an engaging class discussion.

The choice of the method will influence what kind of discussions come about. Think about what kind of discussion you would like to organize, and explore new methods that you haven't tried yet! Use these resources as an entry point and feel free to search for more on your own.

As you know, not everyone is comfortable speaking up in front of the whole class - based on personality, the culture where you come from, whether English is your first language or not, etc. However, the diversity of our class is so rich that engaging in conversations are the best way to learn from each other. Using diverse ways of holding discussions enables balancing out class participation, and gives voice to different people.

Think about how you can create an atmosphere that makes everyone feel comfortable (You could bring small fika?).

Structured Discussions

Fish Bowl

A fish bowl enables active participation through discussion by those inside the "fishbowl" and active observation by those outside of the "fishbowl." Useful to increase understanding of controversial topics, support multiple perspectives, encourage active listening and reflection.

<http://knowledgesharingfordev.org/resource-library/art-knowledge-exchange-activity-fishbowl/>

<https://www.facinghistory.org/resource-library/teaching-strategies/fishbowl/>

<http://www.kstoolkit.org/Fish+Bow/>

Value Exercise

A Value Exercise is useful to make people to stand around controversial topics and start a conversation about it. The physical space (classroom) is used as a gradient for people to place themselves ('Agree' vs 'Disagree' or 'Yes' vs 'No' answers).

We did this exercise in our Introduction Lecture on August 29. See 'The Big List of Class Discussion Strategies at the end, in section called 'Philosophical Chairs'.

Debate

A debate is a good way to explore opposing perspectives on a controversial topic in large groups. Instead of splitting groups based on their own opinion, you can also assign positions randomly in order to try to immerse yourself in the opposite perspective

See Point 3 at: <http://bit.ly/1NW6b2A>



Panel Discussion

A Panel Discussion is useful to present different perspectives on the same issue and then have a discussion about those different perspectives. Allow the participant to present a short keynote and then provides space to have an open discussion.

Silent Discussion

Write different polarising questions and statements on big sheets of paper. Put pens next to them. Tell students that they should engage with each other in discussions in silence on these papers. If someone talks out loud during the activity, go to them and ask them politely to follow the instructions.

The Hot Chair

Similar to the Value Exercise, you give statements and students need to react. In this method, only 2-4 people are active in the discussion at a time. These people set on chairs (“hot chairs”) and half of them give pro arguments (“Agree”) and half of them give contra arguments (“Disagree”) to the statement you provide.

See the “Picturing the Global South” toolkit (see link at the end of document) for more information!

More Open-Format Discussions

Open Space

This is a self-organized discussion format that is useful to address diverse needs of what participants want to discuss. All participants have the opportunity to suggest topics. Participants can then choose to join these groups and freely move between groups.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a3jVOKQYm6E> (3min10)

<http://www.grunt.ca/engage/assets/OST.pdf>

World Café

Similar to an Open Space discussion, participants have the opportunity to suggest topics to discuss. Each topic has a ‘café’ table (*fika* is often welcome!) where participants write on a paper tablecloth, questions or points from the discussion for the different participants to see what has happened. While in the Open Space participants can move freely, in the World Café there are usually one or two times when everyone needs to move (or everyone except one ‘topic-host’).

Role Plays

Six Thinking Hats

A role play where different perspectives are represented by different coloured hats. This method shows how different aspects of one’s personality can approach a problem differently and forces participants to step outside their standard thought processes and points of view.

<http://www.kstoolkit.org/DeBonos+Six+Thinking+Hats>

Stakeholder or Country Role Play

A role play where you represent a stakeholder group in the issue (e.g. companies, local citizens in a case to build dams) or country representatives in UN-level negotiations like Model UN, to train to think in different people's shoes and perspectives.

Games, Art-Based Methods, and Other methods

Forum Theatre

A situation is given to two or more students each that need to perform a short improvised theatre play in order to solve the problem situation. It is another fun tool to think from different perspectives. After the performance you can have a discussion.

Silent Board

A way of having a different discussion. There should be no talking out loud during this activity. Write a key term or statement on the blackboard and circle it. Invite students to come up to the board and define/discuss the term by drawing lines out from the circle, etc. Invites more voices from people who don't like to speak up.

http://www.uu.se/digitalAssets/550/550894_1activeengagementstrategiesuppsala.pdf

“Start-Stop-Continue”

A method to discuss what we should start doing, stop doing, or continue doing. Usually applied for projects and teams, but could be interesting to use this to discuss what needs to change in society.

<http://www.people-results.com/start-stop-continue/>

For Sharing Reflections: Democracy Walls

See <http://pubs.iied.org/G02871.html>

Silent Exhibition

Distribute different materials across the room, e.g. quotes, paintings, photos, laptops with headphones and videos or music, etc. Put empty sheets of paper and pens next to each station. Tell the students to go around the room and discover your exhibition. You yourself could also be a part of the exhibition, e.g. embodying relevant stakeholders in the case and telling a story.

Further toolkits and collections of methods you could look into

- The Big List of Class Discussion Strategies: <http://www.cultofpedagogy.com/speaking-listening-techniques/>
- Resource Bank for Active Student Participation
 - <http://www.uu.se/asp/resources/Resource+bank>
 - http://www.uu.se/digitalAssets/550/550894_1activeengagementstrategiesuppsala.pdf
- Tools for Knowledge Sharing <http://knowledgesharingfordev.org/guide/toolbox>
- Knowledge Sharing Toolkit <http://www.kstoolkit.org/KS+Methods>



UPPSALA
UNIVERSITET



CEMUS



- Picturing the Global South. The Power Behind Good Intentions

<https://pooloftrainers.sciint.org/sites/default/files/resources/Toolkit%20Picturing%20the%20Global%20South.pdf>

Sachiko and Thomas are both participatory discussion method freaks! :D Feel free to ask us for more information, if you want to know more about particular methods or how to facilitate.