

Advanced Discussion Leading II: Discussion Techniques
Wednesday, January 23, 2008, 3:30-5:00 p.m., HGS 119
Sam Schaffer and Alison Greene

Objectives:

- TF's will identify specific skills they would like to hone as discussion leaders.
- TF's will develop strategies for planning and facilitating more effective discussions.

Agenda

3:30-3:35

Introduction

- go around the room – name, dept., year, interest in the workshop

3:35-4:05

Think/share/group/share

- TF's begin by sharing one area in which they succeeded last semester as facilitators and one area in which they would like to improve; may use specific cases or generalities. [10 minutes]
1. If there are 10 or more TF's: divide concerns into 4 scenarios [10 minutes]
 - TF's split into groups based on those scenarios, come up with several strategies for dealing with the particular issue
 - possible themes: silent/talkative students; getting students to talk to each other; discussion doesn't move or go where TF wishes; dealing with silent/wrong/irrelevant answers; want to use more creative activities/techniques
 - TF's record tips on poster paper and present to group; others offer suggestions
 - Share out [10 minutes]
- (or 2. If there are 10 or fewer TF's: choose 2-4 shared scenarios and discuss as a large group [20 minutes])
- At end: hand out modified "Leading an Effective Discussion" activity

4:05-4:35

Planning for discussion: What it looks like...How we make it happen

1. What does a good discussion look like? [10 minutes]
2. Tips for planning discussion. [10 minutes]
 - How do you plan for a good conversation?
 - Questioning strategies (Bloom's handout; scaffolding sample)
3. Tips for planning an activity. [10 minutes]
 - How do you make sure an activity will work as you intend?

4:35-4:45

Wrap-up and feedback

- promote rest of teaching series
- feedback forms

Materials

- Handouts:
 - Modified "Leading an Effective Discussion" handout
 - Bloom's handout
 - Scaffolding sample
- 5 sheets poster paper; 5 markers