

Fishbowl

Time: 90 minutes

Materials: Paper, Pens

Purpose Use the Fishbowl protocol to create dynamic group involvement and stimulate discussion.

- Process**
1. Based on the articles you want participants to read, choose a set of questions about the topic for participants to explore.
 2. Before participants form the fishbowl, have them read 2–3 short articles or one long article about the topic.
 3. Once they have finished reading the articles, ask participants to form two circles, an inner circle and an outer circle. The inner circle is the discussion group and should consist of at least 4 participants. The outer circle is the observation group and contains the rest of the participants. Just as people observe fish in a fishbowl, the outer circle observes the inner circle. The most participants you should ever have for this protocol is 20 (10 discussing and 10 observing).
 4. Ask the inner circle to engage in a discussion about the article or articles they read and the questions that frame the workshop. Ask the outer circle to listen to the discussion and take notes to clarify and deepen the conversation about the topic.
 5. After 10 minutes, ask the participants in the inner circle to become the outer circle and the participants in the outer circle to become the inner circle. Have the inner circle use their observation notes to continue the discussion and the outer circle observe and take notes on the inner circle discussion.
 6. After 10 minutes, have the inner circle turn and discuss the questions with participants in the outer circle.
 7. After 10 minutes, bring the circles together and discuss the main ideas and questions that emerged from the fishbowl.

adapted from Donald Clark