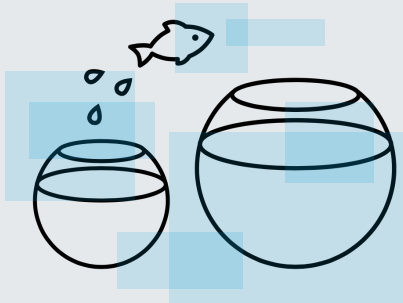# FISHBOWL DISCUSSION

WHAT IT IS

A discussion format where 3-5 learners are placed in "the fishbowl". A topic is given by the facilitator for them to discuss. Those outside the fishbowl, listen and observe whilst taking notes

IDEAL FOR

Foster understanding and comprehension of a topic amongst peers

REQUIREMENTS

Roles:

- 1x moderator

INSPIRATION

[1] Video (1:40): What Is Clubhouse And How Does It Work? The Social Network Based On Voice

[2] Video (8:12): Fishbowl Discussion Example

[3] Video (1:00): 60-Second Strategy: Fishbowl Discussion

[4] Article on Fishbowl variations: Fishbowl Discussions: From Setting Up the 'Basic Bowl' to Creating a 'Fancy Aquarium'

HOW IT WORKS

Learners are split into two groups: Those in the fishbowl having a discussion, and those outside who are observers. Learners in the fishbowl have their microphones and cameras on and are given a topic to discuss by the moderator. Those who are outside the fishbowl listen to the discussion and take notes on:

- What are good arguments?
- Something new they learned
- What topics they would have liked to have heard more about and why?

It is the moderator's job, to guide the discussion and make sure there is equal speaking time between people in the fishbowl. After the discussion, the moderator opens the floor for learners outside the fishbowl, to reflect on what they noticed in the discussion. This should take 5-8 minutes. It is also possible for learners to write their observations in the chat.

CONSIDERATION CHECKLIST

☐ Consider what fishbowl format works best for your learning objectives [Inspiration: 4]

☐ Consider how your chosen topic and questions will foster understanding and comprehension among learners

☐ Where can you inject questions in the discussion to spark new ideas among the learners in the fishbowl?

☐ Have a set of backup questions in case the discussion starts to fizzle out. These can be open-ended questions or asking for a story.

10-25   **15-20** min

preparation   opening   **main**   closure   follow-up
social   input   **assessment**   **reflection**

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ADD ON - Follow-up

After any online session, make sure to send a follow-up within 24 hours. A follow-up email can include notes from the online session, a roadmap of where we are (if it's a program), encouraging learners to connect one on one, information about follow-up events (such as #24 Asynchronous E-debate), or upcoming events. You can also always ask for feedback.

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