Advanced Discussion Leading II: Discussion Techniques  
Wednesday, January 23, 2008, 3:30-5:00 p.m., HGS 119  
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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
     o 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:
  o Modified “Leading an Effective Discussion” handout
  o Bloom’s handout
  o Scaffolding sample
- 5 sheets poster paper; 5 markers