

Rules For A Good Fishbowl Discussion

1. Only one person speaks at a time.
2. Participants must use cues such as body language and eye contact to determine when it is appropriate to speak.
3. If two people start to speak at the same time, one must yield.
4. All participants look at the person speaking.
5. Questions can be asked of other participants in the inner circle to motivate them to join in.
6. Disagree politely.
7. State your ideas and support them with evidence.
8. Respond to the comments of other participants by agreeing or disagreeing *and offering additional evidence*.
9. Record notes, quotations from the text(s), statistics, etc., that support your ideas and opinions.
10. The teacher or seminar leader does not participate in the discussion except to provide a new question or to terminate an irrelevant or inappropriate line of discussion.