

PUBLIC DELIBERATION TECHNIQUES

Designing For Public Learning, Listening & Making Recommendations

Zoom & Google Docs

April 25 & 26, 2022 | 12:00-3:30 Eastern / 9:00-12:30 Pacific

COURSE OVERVIEW

Learn to cultivate informed and thoughtful public discussion in this age of polarized debate. This course introduces engagement methods used for policy issues around the globe: Citizens Assemblies, Deliberative Polling, the 21st Century Town meeting. In each, people from different walks of life are convened to learn about an important topic, deliberate on options for action, make proposals to governments and leaders, and generate ideas for change. You will also explore, and apply to your own work, key ingredients of these processes, including developing discussion content and questions, as well as outreach strategies to involve large numbers of diverse participants.

Participants completing this course can:

- Begin to design meetings that emphasize dialogue and deliberation among participants
- Draft powerful discussion questions that solicit focused participant input
- Describe approaches for supporting participant learning
- Identify and address barriers to participation
- Explain various approaches for participant recruitment that is demographically representative of communities most impacted by the issue
- Compare and contrast the theory and practice of the Citizen Assemblies, Deliberative Polling and 21st Century Town Hall
- Apply aspects of deliberative dialogue methods to your own work

COURSE AGENDA

Day 1: Methods & Participants

- 12:00
1. Welcome & course overview.
 2. Dialogue, debate, and deliberation in public meetings. Experiential exercise and presentation.
 3. Introduction to large scale methods: Citizens Assembly, 21st Century Town Meeting & Deliberative Poll. Discussion and presentation.
- Break
4. Simulation of 21st Century Town Meeting. Small group exercise and plenary discussion.
 5. Wrap Up: Formative evaluation, looking ahead.
- 3:30 Adjour

Day 2: Designing Powerful Discussions

- 12:00
1. Connecting and overview of the day.
 2. Overview of Citizens Jury & Case Study. Presentation and discussion.
 3. Informed participation and issue framing. Presentation and plenary discussion. *What are effective ways to inform your participants about the issues to be discussed?*
- Break
4. Crafting powerful discussion questions. Presentation, pairs exercise and plenary debrief.
- Break
5. Recruitment methods for demographically representative participants. Presentation and plenary exercise. *What are effective ways to help people know about - and show up to participate in - your engagement efforts?*
 6. Barriers to participation and possible responses. Presentation, small group, exercise, and plenary discussion. *Who is least likely to participate, but their participation is desired? What barriers do these groups face?*
 7. Applications to your own work. Individual reflection
 8. Closure and summative evaluation.
- 3:30 Adjour