

Activity 1.7 Taking Inventory of Collaborative Discussion Skills ¹

Description

This activity will provoke participants to reflect upon and identify their needs in a discussion space. They will be encouraged to build on their strengths and support the development of their weaknesses. Participants have the option of sharing their needs and working together to support the needs of fellow discussants.

Learning Goals

- Develop an awareness of personal strengths and needs in group discussion.
- Support others in their needs to help nurture a more collaborative discussion environment.

Practice (60 minutes)

Step One	<p><i>Self-evaluate your collaborative discussion skills using this Collaborative Discussion Skill Evaluation Worksheet.</i> Assess your skills as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• F – Fulfillment: You are completely satisfied with your abilities.• C – Comfort: You feel confident of your abilities but would like to refine.• D – Developing: You recognize you have a serious need and would like the discussions to support growth in this area.• L – Lacking: You are very deficient but not yet comfortable with the development of this area. <p>Tip: Share the worksheet or sign in to a Google account to make a copy of this google form (click Make a Copy) to assess how the group</p>	10 min

¹ **Citation for this activity:** Jack Byrd & Shannon Wheatley Hartman (2023). Taking Inventory of Collaborative Discussion Skills. In Hartman, Britt, & Byrd (Eds). *The Interactivity Foundation Collaborative Discussion Toolkit*. Retrieved from <https://www.collaborativediscussionproject.com/module-1-introduction-to-collaborat>

	feels about these skills. Taking this inventory early in the program could allow facilitators to adjust programming to address self-reported need and interest. Each skill in this worksheet is addressed by a learning activity in this toolkit.	
Step Two	In small groups, develop a composite view of the discussion group's rankings. For each personal attribute, identify the number of evaluations in each category (i.e. F, C, D, L)	20 min
Step Three	Identify 3-4 D categories you would like to enhance through the discussions. Coming back to the full group, comment on how you will support each other to grow in your respective developmental needs. Save these support statements using the template shown in the Collaborative Discussion Skills Commitment Worksheet .	20 min
Step Four	<p>Debrief as a large group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which skills are we most interested in developing? • Which skills do we feel like we are most comfortable exhibiting? • How might we refer to our commitment worksheet in our time together? 	10 min

Reflection Assignment

- How comfortable were you sharing your needs with others?
- How effective were the discussions at helping you improve your collaborative needs?
- Is it useful to have others sharing responsibility for your development?

Practice Journal

This week, think about how you might start or continue to develop the skills you identified through these activities. Write a game plan that includes small activities or actions that you can take to help you develop this skill.

Dive Deeper: Additional Resources