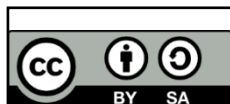




## FISHBOWL

|                       |   |             |  |                |  |        |   |            |               |
|-----------------------|---|-------------|--|----------------|--|--------|---|------------|---------------|
| Purpose               | <p>The <i>Fishbowl</i> technique is best used right after group work and enables students to share, discuss, and reflect on the different positions and perspectives of individual groups with the whole class. It is also suitable for pooling or distilling results and opinions in very large groups.</p> <p>During the activity, students in the inner circle present and defend their positions, thereby practicing their argumentative skills. Students in the outer circle observe the developing discussion, honing their ability to read social cues and to analyze social interactions. The latter can also switch roles and join the inner circle in their discussion. By being able to withdraw back to the outer circle, participation in the ongoing discussion is made easier especially for students who tend to be more reserved.</p>  |             |  |                |  |        |   |            |               |
| Directions            | <p>Participants sit in two circles – one inner, one outer. The inner circle is asked to discuss the topic at hand, while the outer circle observes the discussion. The discussion group in the inner circle is comprised of individual participants from a previous group work phase who present their group's specific results or conclusions.</p> <p>The instructor is part of the inner circle, but serves as a moderator by making sure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— every participant who wants to contribute gets to speak</li> <li>— individual statements remain short and to the point</li> <li>— the discussion does not become redundant.</li> </ul> <p>One or two seats within the inner circle remain open throughout the activity so that participants from the outer circle can temporarily switch to the inner one and take on a more active role in the discussion. A participant who has moved from the outer to the inner circle is expected to return to the outer circle once they have made their statement in order to give another participant the opportunity to contribute.</p> |             |  |                |  |        |   |            |               |
| Parameters            | <table border="0"> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">Group size:</td> <td>inner circle: 4-6 people; outer circle: flexible</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Time required:</td> <td>15 – 60 minutes for the fishbowl discussion (plus time for the preceding group work)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Setup:</td> <td>moveable chairs; enough room for inner and outer circle</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Materials:</td> <td>none required</td> </tr> </table>   | Group size: | inner circle: 4-6 people; outer circle: flexible | Time required: | 15 – 60 minutes for the fishbowl discussion (plus time for the preceding group work) | Setup: | moveable chairs; enough room for inner and outer circle | Materials: | none required |
| Group size:           | inner circle: 4-6 people; outer circle: flexible  |             |  |                |  |        |   |            |               |
| Time required:        | 15 – 60 minutes for the fishbowl discussion (plus time for the preceding group work)  |             |  |                |  |        |   |            |               |
| Setup:                | moveable chairs; enough room for inner and outer circle   |             |  |                |  |        |   |            |               |
| Materials:            | none required   |             |  |                |  |        |   |            |               |
| Helpful Tips          | <p>It is essential for the instructor to provide clear directions explaining both the purpose and the structure of the exercise before getting started. The instructor can choose to remain a neutral observer who does not participate in the discussion at all, or to serve only as a moderator in order to begin the discussion and/or to keep it going.</p>   |             |  |                |  |        |   |            |               |
| Online Implementation | <p>— in <a href="#">HeiCONF</a>, only students in the inner circle turn their cameras on; participants from the outer circle who want to join the inner circle can use the chat function (or turn their cameras on to raise their hands) when they want to join the discussion.</p>   |             |  |                |  |        |   |            |               |

Adapted from:  
Macke, G., Hanke, U., & Viehmann, P. (2008). *Hochschuldidaktik*. Weinheim: Beltz Verlag.



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