Title: Debate in Focus Group

Exercise Code: SLINTEGRA025

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| Modules: | Group size: | Duration: |
| 1. Social Learning | Small group  Large group | 45 min |

# Purpose:

* To train yourself how to work within the group dynamic
* To improve the ability to listen to others
* To support others to express their feelings, beliefs and thoughts
* To learn how to reach common decisions

# Description:

Form a focus group to debate an issue to find a solution. Share your feelings, beliefs and thoughts on one of the following statements. As a group, come to an agreement about the best way to address the topic.

Statements:

1. Volunteering is a good way to learn responsibility. Why and why not?

2. The only person that I should really compete with is myself. Why and why not?

3. If I am a team member, I should put the good of the team before my own desires. Why and why not?

Each student adds their own distinctive tone to the group and therefore the main essence of the group dynamic is in how the members’ opinions, feelings and ideas differentiate. These differences enrich the debate.

At the end of the exercise, it is important that the trainer assesses the purpose of the exercise and why it is essential that the group reaches a mutual viewpoint on a certain topic.

# Material:

Paper, pencil, handout

# Methods:

Discussion

The trainer reads the guidelines and leads the group through the debate step by step.

# Advice for Trainer:

Make sure that the trainer, who runs the group dynamic, has a sense of how to create a safe space for group members and knows exactly what goals the group has. The trainer should not feel the need to push the students in expressing their feelings, but should rather focus on creating atmosphere, where students will feel comfortable talking about their feelings and thoughts. The main aim of this exercise is to develop open communication between team members and to support the team spirit.

# Source/Literature:

Modified and adapted from Teaching Center, Washington University, St. Louis