



Snowball Discussion and Assessment

Objective: The snowball discussion method is an active learning technique where students begin by individually considering a discussion prompt, then form pairs to share ideas, and gradually expand into larger groups to build upon those initial perspectives. This method allows the accumulation of information and perspectives over time.

Facilitation

- Individual Reflection:

Students begin by individually answering a discussion prompt or question related to the topic at hand.

- Pairing:

They then pair up and share their individual responses with their partner, building upon each other's ideas.

- Expanding Groups:

These pairs then combine into larger groups of four, and so on, continuing to share and build upon the collective understanding.

- Final Discussion:

The process continues until the entire class is involved in a larger group discussion, with the initial thoughts having evolved and expanded through the collaborative sharing process.

Sample Assessments and Rubric

Participation and Engagement

Criteria: Actively engages in discussions, collaborates effectively with peers, demonstrates enthusiasm and interest.

Method: Observation and participation rubrics.

Understanding of Ethical Concepts

Criteria: Accurately applies ethical theories, shows depth of knowledge and insight, makes connections between ethical issues and real-world scenarios.

Method: Written reflections and class-wide discussion contributions.

Communication Skills

Criteria: Clearly articulates ideas and arguments, listens and responds to others respectfully, uses appropriate language and terminology.

Method: Group discussions, presentations, and peer assessments.

Example Rubric Criteria

Criteria	Excellent (4)	Good (3)	Satisfactory (2)	Needs Improvement (1)
Participation	Actively engages in discussions; collaborates	Engages in discussions; collaborates with	Participates in discussions; occasional	Limited participation; minimal

Criteria	Excellent (4)	Good (3)	Satisfactory (2)	Needs Improvement (1)
	effectively with peers; demonstrates enthusiasm and interest.	peers; shows interest.	collaboration; some interest.	collaboration; lacks enthusiasm.
Understanding	Accurately applies ethical theories; shows depth of knowledge and insight; makes connections between ethical issues and real-world scenarios.	Applies theories; demonstrates knowledge; makes some connections.	Basic application of theories; limited knowledge; few connections.	Struggles to apply theories; lacks understanding; no connections.
Communication	Clearly articulates ideas and arguments; listens and responds to others respectfully; uses appropriate language and terminology.	Communicates ideas; listens and responds; uses appropriate language.	Basic communication; occasional listening and responding; some appropriate language.	Poor communication; minimal listening and responding; inappropriate language.