



TEACHING METHODS

Fishbowl

MATERIALS NEEDED FOR IN-PERSON TEACHING:

- SEATS CAN BE MOVED THROUGHOUT THE ROOM

MATERIALS NEEDED FOR VIRTUAL TEACHING:

- SPOTLIGHT OR "PIN" FEATURE IN THE VIRTUAL CLASSROOM

EMPOWERING LEARNING:

- STUDENT CENTERED
- GIVES SPACE FOR INTROVERTS
- ENCOURAGES ACTIVE LISTENING AND ENGAGEMENT

DESCRIPTION

In a medium to large class, this type of discussion highlights one small group of students as they carry the conversation while other groups can only listen and take notes. After 10-15 minutes, the groups switch roles and the formerly highlighted group then listens as the next group discusses.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR IN-PERSON TEACHING

Arrange the space so that the group speaking is the focus. The term "fishbowl" comes from a typical arrangement of a small group of seats within a larger circle of chairs. When the groups switch roles, then also switch seats.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR VIRTUAL TEACHING

1. Utilize features like Zoom's "Spotlight" that can pin the small group of students speaking to the front of everyone's view.
2. Make sure everyone outside of the small speaking group is muted and not using the chat until it is their time to be spotlighted

IDEAS FOR USING THIS METHOD

- Set open-ended questions for discussion
- Bunch the strongest voices of the class in the same group: this will prevent small group discussion from being dominated and gives them the opportunity to listen to voices they might otherwise speak over
- Debrief afterwards, e.g. how did participants feel discussing and how did they feel listening?