

The Dana model for discussion events

The Science Museum's Dana Centre uses Maslow's hierarchy of needs to set up its discussion events.

The bottom three layers represent the needs that must be fulfilled in order to achieve a successful discussion.

Participants need to feel physically comfortable and confident to enjoy and participate in the event.

The same principles apply to running a classroom discussion.

Some things to consider:

- Is the room arranged in the best way for your discussion-based lesson so that everyone can see and hear each other?
- Do you need to set ground rules, allocate roles to encourage personal involvement or create anonymity?
- What size groups will the students work in – small groups or whole-class discussion?
- Is there content that will engage students of different learning styles?
- Do your students need supporting or background knowledge?
- Is the discussion topic relevant or interesting to your students?
- What's your hook? What angle will engage your students and make them want to talk?
- How will the discussion be concluded?

With all this considered you should enjoy a great discussion!

Discussion model



OUTCOME

Have a great discussion!

INTELLECTUAL EQUITY

Is the topic relevant?

Is there a good hook?

Is background knowledge needed?

EMOTIONAL/SOCIAL ACCEPTANCE

What are the ground rules?

Is there content for different learning styles?

What size are the groups?

PHYSICAL/SAFETY NEEDS

How is the classroom arranged?

Can everyone hear and see each other?

Could a better space be used?

Maslow (1943)