



Fishbowl



WHAT IS IT?

Fishbowl is a reciprocal teaching technique that emphasizes mutual exchange through dual student roles. Inner circle students are challenged to participate in a high-level discussion while the outer circle is asked to listen to the discussion and critique content, logic, and group interaction. This technique, therefore, serves two purposes: to provide structure for in-depth discussion and to provide opportunities for students to model or observe group processes in a discussion setting.

ACTIVITY TYPE	TEACHING PROBLEM ADDRESSED	LEARNING TAXONOMIC LEVEL
<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Active /Engaged Learning❖ Discussion❖ Learning Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Poor Attention /Learning❖ Surface Learning❖ Lack of Participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Application: Analysis & Critical Thinking❖ Integration & Synthesis❖ Learn how to learn

WHY USE IT?

. In *Fishbowl*, students form concentric circles with a small group inside and a larger group outside. Students in the inner circle engage in an in-depth discussion, while students in the outer circle listen and critique content, logic, and group interaction.

HOW DO I DO IT?

1. Clarify your teaching purpose and learning goals for the Three Minute Message
2. Craft an open-ended prompt likely to generate multiple responses
3. Set assignment parameters such as size of inner circle and chair placement
4. Develop a plan for learning assessment or grading
5. Communicate assignment instructions to students
6. Implement the technique
7. Reflect upon the activity and evaluate its effectiveness




Fishbowl



WHAT SHOULD I CONSIDER?

For setting parameters, consider aspects such as:

- Whether to facilitate the inner circle discussion, sit with the outer circle or separate yourself so that you can observe both circles.
- Whether one fishbowl or multiple smaller fishbowls, and the size of the inner circles.
 - For one fishbowl, the inner circle generally consists of 3-5 students;
 - For multiple fishbowls, the inner circle generally consists of 2-3 students.
 - Move students into circles.
-  If the physical constraints of the classroom do not allow movement of chairs into circles, consider having the inner circle of students simply sit in chairs and participate in the discussion at the front of the classroom..

WHAT IF I WANT MORE?

[Home - The K. Patricia Cross Academy \(kpcrossacademy.org\)](http://kpcrossacademy.org)