



Center for Leadership & Educational Equity

Developing an Understanding of the Roles of Facilitator, Presenter, and Participant

Developed by educators in the field. Compiled by Frances Hensley and Connie Parrish, 2013.

The following activities might be used to help group members gain insight into and understanding of the essential roles the facilitator, participant, and presenter play in the success of a protocol.

Note: All of these activities can be used to explore a variety of topics, issues, or questions.

- **Think aloud** — Conduct a “think aloud” to share your own thinking (you might do this with a partner) as you prepare to participate in a protocol in one or more of these roles (facilitator, participant, or presenter).
- **Debrief** — Use the debrief phase of the protocol to focus on each of the jobs. What did the facilitator (or presenter or participants) do that helped to make the protocol successful? What was challenging about these jobs? What do we want to keep in mind as we participant in future sessions? A similar kind of debrief could also be used at the close of a pre-conference between the facilitator and participant to help prepare for the upcoming session: What can I do as the facilitator (participant) to help make the session successful? What is needed from the participants?
- **Brainstorming charts** — Divide participants into 3 small groups of 3-5 people. Each small group has a particular color marker (blue for group 1, green for group 2, etc.) and one or more sheets of chart paper. Ask each group to choose a scribe and a runner. Groups are given a question, topic, or issue to generate ideas around. In this case, one group would focus on *What Does a Facilitator Do?*, another on *What Does a Presenter Do?*, and a third on *What Does a Participant Do?*. The focusing question should be written on top of the chart paper.

Groups then brainstorm what they know and are coming to understand about their respective role/question. The Scribe writes the group’s thinking on the chart. At end of 3 minutes or so, runners take the charts to neighboring groups and exchange. Group members read the chart they receive and then add information to it, pose questions, and/or highlight items. After a period of time (2-3 minutes), charts are exchanged again. At the end of 3 rounds, each group should have had a chance to interact with each of the other charts. In the final round each group receives their original charts to review/analyze/make sense of. This might be followed by a gallery walk and/or some other kind of sharing/analyzing of outcome.