



Carousel

This technique is an effective way of sharing ideas and perceptions among a relatively large number of people. Participants have to move around from 'station to station', which can be helpful in terms of getting people working together, and boosting energy levels during the 'siesta slot'.

A carousel needs spaces (stations), topics, coloured marker pens and small groups.

1. Divide the group into three to five sub-groups depending on the number of people and the topics you want them to talk about. Each group needs a different topic.
2. Each group has a 'home' station with its own flip charts etc, and has a particular focus question or task to begin with. The group, or a facilitator, ensures that the key points of their conversation are recorded in a way that the next group will understand, with their coloured pens.
3. At given times each group moves to the next 'station', leaving one person behind as 'station representative'. If there are enough facilitators, then this role can be played by a facilitator.
4. The person left behind explains to the newly arrived group how his or her group tackled their task and what they have achieved. The arrivals comment on and add to the work in their own colour.
5. After a given period of time, the groups move on to the next station – and so on until they arrive back to their home station.
6. Once everyone has visited every other station and arrived back at their own, they can discover how the visiting groups have responded to their original efforts.
7. Each group, working with its facilitator, summarises its conclusions. These can be recorded on a flip, and may be fed back in plenary.

