

Panel Discussion

The objective of a panel discussion

The objective of a panel discussion is a gathering of experts in a specific topic who talk about their knowledge and points of view. The panelists give their comments, arguments, and points of view about their topic of expertise. Also, a panel discussion contributes to critical thinking so the audience can develop their own ideas and reconsider their way of thinking.

How to prepare a panel discussion?

1. Select the topic or problem to discuss on the panel: It is relevant to specify the topic to discuss to the panelist to have a clear idea of the arguments and not lose the focus of the subject.
2. Determine the roles of the panelists: The moderator must specify to the panelist the theme of discussion in that sense each panelist knows his/her approach to it.
3. Organize the rules of participation (duration and order of participation): The panelists have a precise time to give their speeches, respond to other panelists' ideas, and discuss their opinions.
4. Establish the issues or questions with which each panelist will participate, order them, and give them a logical sequence: The moderator must control the inquiries for the panelist as well as the discussion and the correct conclusion in each intervention.

The participants in a panel discussion are the moderator, experts, and audience.

1. The moderator must know about the topic that will be discussed in the panel, give an introduction about the topic, and introduce the panelists. He or she must ask coherent and clear questions, lead questions to increase the topics that are being discussed, guide the discussion to maintain the order of ideas in each expert and the answers of the other panelists. In addition, the moderator must be neutral in her or his opinions, coordinate the right to speak and reply to prevent everyone speak at the same time, summarize the answers and comments to be clear to the audience, and control the time from each panelist. Finally, he or she must lead the Q&A with the audience. At the end of the panel discussion, the moderator will give a conclusion about the topics and the contributions of each panelist to the discussion.
2. The panelists give their points of view about their field of expertise. The panelists speak in turns, in an organized manner, around a topic in which they can provide their perspective that is being discussed. They express their ideas with clarity and precision to the audience. Normally, each of the panelists converse and argue to contribute to new knowledge through the discussion. The panelist avoids monopolizing the discussion and controversial topics which could be sensitive for the audience and the other panelists.
3. The audience in a panel discussion has a relevant role through the questions and comments addressed to the experts. The knowledge that the audience acquires from a panel discussion comes from considering different ways of thinking and confronting them with their own.

To learn more

- Hubilo. (2022). *A Complete Guide to Panel Discussions*. <https://www.hubilo.com/blog/a-complete-guide-to-panel-discussions>
- Kutugata Estrada, A. (2016). Foros de discusión: herramienta para incrementar el pensamiento crítico en educación superior. *Apertura* 8(2).
https://www.scielo.org.mx/scielo.php?script=sci_arttext&pid=S1665-61802016000300084
- Law, Kristy. (2022). *A Complete Guide to Panel Discussions*. <https://oxfordabstracts.com/blog/a-complete-guide-to-panel-discussions/>
- Leal-Isida, R., González Barranco A. & Carrizales Guerra, Y. (2023). *Guías del Centro de Escritura. Orientaciones para desarrollar textos y discursos académicos y profesionales*. Editorial Digital Tecnológico de Monterrey. <https://altexto.mx/guias-del-centro-de-escritura-orientaciones-para-desarrollar-textos-y-discursos-academicos-y-profesionales-0xqez.html>



This material was developed by the Tecnológico de Monterrey Writing Center. Users may copy, distribute, transmit, and use it as a source for other works, so long as they credit the original and do not trade with it. If users alter or transform the original, they must distribute it under a license identical to this one. For more information

contact: cescrituratec@servicios.itesm.mx