

Initial Survey of Students
What's Difficult About Being a Group Facilitator?
Student Responses – 01/09/07

Planning/Organizing Session

- Having a lack of structure one week to another.
- Order of the meeting felt unpredictable.
- Unaware of what I was exactly supposed to do.
- Not knowing what was to be covered or what was appropriate to discuss.
- Coming up with/planning the agenda; making sure appropriate topics are covered.
- Determining what to put on the agenda.
- Deciding on topics.
- Organizing session.
- Roles were assigned but no one ever 'really' was the facilitator; supervisor usually led unless we were doing a specific client presentation.
- Making the meeting interesting for everyone not just a few people.
- Trying to be creative with how to present the information.

Knowledge Level

- Unsure of my classmates knowledge so I didn't know if I was being helpful or redundant.
- Coming up with a relevant activity/plan that other students would find valuable.
- Sometimes I tried to describe my case study but I can't point out the important part and main ideas.
- Not knowing what questions to prompt because limited knowledge about the topic.

Facilitating

- Knowing what was expected of the facilitator.
- Speaking in front of people in general.
- Time management.
- Getting the ball rolling/starting the conversation.
- Having a good flow of presentation.
- Pacing the meeting if discussions go too long.
- Staying on a task the whole group can participate in.
- Knowing when to move on/change topic/cut off discussion.
- Uncomfortable/hard transitions.
- Making sure that everyone got an equal chance to share about their clients.
- Staying on topic.
- Keeping digression to a minimum.
- Dealing with disagreements/confrontations.
- Difficult to remain facilitator when/if other students/supervisor chimed in.
- Knowing what to do when there was silence, ie what topic to bring up next and when to do so.
- CT team wasn't talkative, so knowing what their needs were was difficult; trying to keep conversation going when you feel like you are pulling teeth.
- No participation from other team members. Keeping everyone on track/focused.