



BUZZ SESSION

WHAT IS A BUZZ SESSION?

A very short discussion on a narrow topic that involves simultaneous small group work (usually in pairs) and stimulates contribution from each member of the participant group.

A BUZZ SESSION MAY BE ORGANIZED

- » with a large number of participants and as an activity within a workshop or conference.
- » with an experienced facilitator who is able to easily adjust the flow of the activities, if needed.

USE IT TO

- » tap into the knowledge and experience of each participant.
- » energize the group or as an icebreaker.
- » identify needs/solicit quick feedback on a narrow topic.
- » support generation of a large number of ideas.
- » generate group-level questions for speakers.
- » re-focus on core issues.

HOW TO USE IT

- » Carefully consider the outcomes you seek from a buzz session. Here are some examples of how to use a buzz session effectively:
 - › Follow a presentation with a buzz session. Ask audience members to talk for five to ten minutes to the person next to them about how key points in the presentation relate to their own experiences. This dialogue will bring out new perspectives and may also reduce questions, or lead to more informed questions, from the audience.
 - › Structure a buzz session so that two to three participants take turns interviewing each other. The facilitator(s) may instruct participants to allow each to talk for three to five minutes without interruption and then have a five minute discussion as a group.
 - › Use a buzz session as an icebreaker at the start of a workshop with a brief one to two minute discussion on a narrow topic of common interest or expectation.