



Medical Student Perceptions of Effective Small Group Session

Features of a session environment conducive to learning

- Active learners participation and group interaction
- Questions that probe critical thinking
- Check out understanding of the material
- Cases/materials that promote thinking and problem solving
- Complete review of assigned cases
- Application of content to real life situations
- Clinical relevance and integration
- Connection between lectures and small group sessions
- Work as a team and learn from each other

Features of effective small group leaders

- Shows enthusiasm and interest
- Is not threatening
- Encourages participation, thinking and problem solving
- Prepares for the session
- Is familiar with lecture and session materials
- Understands and clarifies the goals of the session
- Does not lecture or dominate the discussion
- Does not rush through the cases/materials
- Expands on the case or generalize issues to another clinical situation
- Recognizes knowledge limitations
- Summarizes the discussion

References

AY2007-2008, TUSM Medical Students Course Evaluations

Steinert, I. (2004). Student perceptions of effective small group teaching. *Medical Education* 38:286-293.