

## Facilitation Models

# Collaboratory

## overview

The Collaboratory is the innovation lab within the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA), with a mission to design, pilot, and share new approaches to educational and cultural exchanges. We explore new developments and technologies, forge partnerships, and link public diplomacy practitioners to experts in other sectors. Through this work, the Collaboratory plays a role in ensuring that public diplomacy adapts to the demands of a changing world. As part of our mission, the Collaboratory partners with ECA offices and U.S. Embassies across the world, and a variety of public and private organizations, to design facilitation tools and incorporate innovations into public diplomacy. Since 2013, the Collaboratory has completed a number of facilitated trainings and sessions on behalf of ECA on a variety of topics and themes, serving a variety of audiences.

1.

### Facilitation Cards

Facilitation cards are a useful tool for ice breaker activities, thematic conversation starters, as well as storytelling training. The Collaboratory has used a variety of facilitation cards, such as [Big Talk](#), [Story District](#), [WeConnect](#), and [Questions & Empathy](#) decks. If facilitation cards would not work for your setting, we still strongly encourage you to begin your session with some other icebreaker activity that fits with your theme.

2.

### The Long Conversation

This format is an alternative to a traditional panel, where multiple speakers interview each other one pair

at a time with a set of predetermined questions. The interviewer then becomes the interviewee and these roles rotate until all the speakers have had the chance to interview as well as to be interviewed. Here's an example of a long conversation event from the [Smithsonian](#).

3.

### Talk Show Interview

A classic on-stage interview between a host and guest is a good alternative to a keynote address. This is your chance to be Oprah! Do your research, prepare questions ahead of time, and have a run-through with the interviewee. The interview can also be live-streamed or recorded to share with a wider audience. The Collaboratory team has developed a set of questions

for the 22.33 podcast that can serve as inspiration for your own interviews or you can outsource questions from the audience ahead of time to incorporate into the interview.

4.

### Pitch Fest

Shark Tank, but nicer. A pitch fest allows participants to present their action plans, follow-on projects, and creative ideas in a friendly competition. Whether they're pitching to a panel or the entire audience, soliciting feedback, or observing others pitching their ideas, this format is a fun way to perfect their elevator pitch. Here's an example of a pitch session from the [Global Sports Mentoring Program](#).





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5.

## TED Talk

This storytelling format allows for short presentations, centered around first-person narratives, focused on a specific topic. This is a good option when there are multiple presenters, diverse themes to cover, and limited time. An element of coaching is involved to ensure that presenters are well-prepared and stay within the allotted time. This format also allows for supporting visuals, such as photos, audio, props, video, or audience participation. Here's an example of a TEDx talk from one of ECA's [YES program alumni](#).

6.

## Think-Pair-Share (T-P-S)

The Think-Pair-Share (T-P-S) technique is designed to encourage attendees to share and discuss ideas around a particular topic in pairs. You can plan to use Think-Pair-Share within a planned session, but it is also easy to implement it spontaneously. This strategy can be used to gauge conceptual understanding, filter information, draw conclusions, and encourage peer learning among attendees. Remember you do not always need attendees to share back to the larger group, sometimes the pairs can share with another pair.

7.

## Gallery Walk

This format allows for simultaneous activities at different stations throughout a given space and is a good option for sharing diverse information, activities, or concurring discussions in a limited amount of time. Smaller groups rotate from station to station within timed durations. Participants can rotate individually or in assigned groups.

8.

## Jigsaw Activity

This format is a cooperative learning technique, where you provide the opportunity for attendees to become “experts” in a particular subject and share that knowledge with their peers. Attendees begin in an “summarizing group” where they work together to read or synthesize knowledge on a specific topic. After a given time, they split into “expert groups” where they are now the expert on their topic and must share out to their peers and their peers do the same on their topic.