

CITIZEN DELIBERATION

INSTRUCTIONS FOR MODERATORS, Common-statement groups

General instructions

1. The moderator may not express his/her own opinion on the question of nuclear power. The moderator must be completely impartial.
2. The moderator should ensure that discussion remains on the subject in question, and that respect is shown to other parties and their views. If a deliberator impertinently mocks the views of another, for example, the moderator must intervene.
3. The moderator must ensure that the discussion is balanced. If one of the members of the group has not said anything or very little, the moderator may ask for his/her opinion on the matter. If, on the other hand, a deliberator is dominating the discussion (i.e. is talking much more than the others; the others are hardly able to say anything), the moderator may restrict his/her chance to speak.
4. The discussion is otherwise free, and the moderator should not need to intervene. The moderator indicates who should speak (no need to be very formal).
5. If the discussion pauses, the moderator may raise a theme or question (that the deliberators have suggested), which has not yet been discussed, and ask the members of the group about their opinions on the question.
6. The moderator should try to create a pleasant and relaxed atmosphere in the group, one in which it is easy for the members to express their own opinions.

Opening of the deliberation

1. The moderator welcomes the participants
2. The moderator explains the timetable for small group deliberation

Initial discussions, coffee break, discussions continue and finally preparation of the common statement, which must be approved by all group members. The group members decide on the content of the common statement, which the moderator records. The common statement should contain the following: did the group reach a consensus concerning the key themes and facts about the question of nuclear power? What were these themes and facts? Was consensus reached on the question itself, i.e. about whether or not a sixth nuclear power plant should be built in Finland? If consensus on the above-mentioned matter has not been reached in the group, the majority view should be recorded on the common statement together with the number of group members representing that view. Once the common statement is complete, the moderator reads it aloud and asks whether everyone is ready to approve it.

3. The moderator states that the discussion is being recorded on tape. The tape recordings are used only for research purposes, and nobody other than the project researchers have the opportunity to listen to them.

4. The moderator explains the rules of the deliberation:

CITIZEN DELIBERATION aims for an exchange of views, in which the opinions of others are respected. The discussion is based on the idea that, in the question of nuclear power, there are no right or wrong opinions, and that nobody knows the ultimate truth on the subject. Deliberators should always try to justify their opinions. They should always take an open and unbiased view of the opinions expressed by others. Everyone is expected to express their own opinion with confidence, but also to be ready to change their mind if the arguments presented by others are convincing. It is, however, important to remember that different opinions are allowed, and that there is no need for everyone to agree with each other.

The moderator gives the floor to the deliberators when they raise their hands.

5. The moderator begins the round of introductions by introducing him-/herself (name then perhaps occupation and place of residence).
6. The moderator asks whether anyone has any questions before the discussion begins.
7. The discussion begins by going around the participants, with each one suggesting a nuclear power-related theme or point of view, which should be discussed. The moderator writes down these themes on the board using reference words (e.g. nuclear accidents, uranium mining, climate change, energy requirement, storage of nuclear waste, energy saving, etc.).
8. After that, the participants may discuss freely the themes that have been raised. If new themes emerge during the discussion, the moderator also writes them on the board. The moderator only intervenes in the discussion, if there is a need to encourage a very passive participant, to restrict the speech of a very dominant one or if the discussion stalls (or veers off subject, etc.). If one of the themes is ignored, the moderator may encourage discussion of it.

Progress of the deliberation

1. Brief questionnaire
2. Introductions and survey of general themes (approx. 30 mins)
3. Discussion (approx. 1½ hrs)
4. Coffee break 3.30 – 4.00 pm
5. Discussion continues (approx. 1 hr)
6. Preparation of common statement: Should a sixth nuclear power plant be built in Finland?

Begin writing common statement:

7. The group members decide on the content of the common statement, which the moderator records. The common statement should include the following:

- Have the group members reached a consensus concerning the key themes on the question of nuclear power? What are these themes? The participants are advised to chart the nuclear power-related themes, on whose importance they are all in agreement.

If consensus cannot be reached concerning the importance of a theme, the moderator writes on the common statement the themes (2-3 of them), which the majority considered as most important, and how many group members made up this majority.

(During the discussion, the moderator is advised to record those themes, which were most discussed, and which were considered as most important; if necessary, the moderator may raise them).

- Have the group members reached a consensus on the key facts concerning nuclear power? On which facts are they unanimous? The participants are advised to chart the nuclear power-related facts, the validity of which they are all in agreement.

If consensus cannot be reached concerning a fact, the moderator writes on the common statement the facts (2-3 of them) upon which the majority was in agreement, and how many group members made up this majority.

(During the discussion, the moderator is advised to record those facts, about which people seemed to be in agreement; if necessary, the moderator may raise them).

- Are the members of the group unanimous on the response to the actual question? If the members are unanimous on the question of the building of a sixth nuclear power plant, their recommendation should be recorded on the common statement.

If they have not reached consensus, the numbers for and against should be recorded (but not their names).

(During the discussion, the moderator may make a note of which of the deliberators were for nuclear power and which were against).

- The moderator must be very careful to ensure that he/she does not shape the content of the statement him-/herself. The moderator must also ensure that the minority does not just submit to the view of the majority, if they are of a different opinion. The moderator can ensure this by asking: do you also agree with that?
- Finally, the moderator reads the common statement aloud and asks whether everyone is willing to approve it. At this stage, small modifications can still be made to the statement.

8. The moderator collects the information pack from the participants.

9. The participants fill in a second questionnaire (the moderator distributes the forms based on the participants' code numbers).

10. The moderator brings the event to a close, hands out gift tokens and thanks the participants.

11. Switch to the restaurant.