

Facilitation & Advocacy

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Put a Finger Down

- Put a finger down if you have ever handled a group discussion or explained something to a group.
- Put a finger down if you have ever settled a conflict/fight.
- Put a finger down if you have ever asked a question to get people thinking.
- Put a finger down if you have ever made sure everyone in a group had a chance to speak.
- Put a finger down if you have ever had to get a silent group to talk.



Introduction

If you have ever done any of these, then you have been involved in the process of facilitation. From our just-concluded activity, you will notice that facilitation is not limited to training sessions. It is useful in our day-to-day life.

When interacting with a group of people, facilitation involves ensuring everyone in the group can contribute. It involves participation and collaboration. As a facilitator, you guide the people you are dealing with to achieve set goals. Facilitation is different from teaching.

Teaching

Teaching is more focused on transmitting information through lectures and presentations.

It is more passive with students listening to the teacher.

It may have fewer feedback and reflection opportunities.

It is less collaborative.

It focuses on the teacher's role in imparting knowledge.

Facilitating

Facilitation focuses on creating an environment that encourages learning through dialogue and collaboration.

It encourages active participation and engagement from all members of the group

It involves frequent feedback and reflection.

It is more collaborative.

It focuses on empowering participants to take ownership of their learning.

As a Facilitator:

- You have to be confident. Your confidence has a way of rubbing off on the listeners. Lack of confidence can make your audience uninterested in what you have to say.
- You need to be able to adapt because things might not always go as planned. The fact that your plans changed does not mean things have to be shabby. Be flexible and think on the spot.



As a Facilitator:

- You need to be neutral. When directing a group of people, there will be different opinions that might differ from yours; listen, be open to learning, and be unbiased.
- You need to actively listen. Listen to their opinions and viewpoints; appreciate them and don't be dismissive. Provide appropriate feedback that shows that you have been listening.



Questions

Kindly note that questions will be taken at the end of the facilitation. Thank you!



ADVOCACY





Introduction

If you have ever spoken up for an issue you care about, you have been an advocate. Remember a time you protested in school about the blackout or the living conditions? Those are examples of advocacy. Advocacy involves taking action to influence decision-makers. It can take many forms from discussions with your friends to organizing or joining community events or meeting with government officials.



Advocacy

While advocacy involves speaking up for what you care about or what requires change, it involves preparation. For example, last year, I attended the Youth Consultation preceding COP12 UNTOC where I contributed to coming up with solutions on issues relating to Crimes that Affect the Environment, Organized Fraud, and Technology as Means of and Tool Against Organized Crime. I had background knowledge on some of the topics but I had to prepare to be able to contribute meaningfully.



Effective Advocacy

How can you ensure that you advocate effectively?

- **Research:** You need to understand the issue you want to contribute to.
- **Have a Clear Goal:** What are the changes you would like to see? Your goal gives you direction.
- **Target Decision-Makers:** Identify people who have the power to make the change you are advocating for. This could be community leaders or government officials.
- **Take Action:** You don't have to wait for a big opportunity before you advocate. Use social media, and collaborate with people who share your views.

**Thank You for
your
Collaboration
& Participation!**

