

Town hall meeting

HANA TOMÁNKOVÁ

Town hall meeting

- ▶ members of a community discuss relevant issues and concerns with a public official, government representative or decision-maker of some sort
- ▶ participants can ask questions of officials, and officials can learn about the community's concerns and feedback
- ▶ could be used in different settings including Presidential debates, or by Congresspersons in their districts
- ▶ can take place in any public space – schools, libraries etc.

Process

1. person holding the meeting (e.g., member of Congress) makes some opening remarks
 2. others (e.g., local leaders) can address the audience as well
 3. the floor is opened to questions and comments from the audience = the main part of the meeting
- ▶ (can vary)

Rules and actors

- ▶ moderator or chair required to facilitate discussion
- ▶ meetings open to public (participants self-select to attend)
 - audience can be also selected to include e.g., undecided voters
- ▶ the main point of interaction is in the question and answers between audience and speakers
- ▶ attendees generally present ideas, voice their opinions, ask questions

Example

Presidential town hall meetings:

- ▶ <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/challenges-town-hall-debate>

Sources

PARTICIPEDIA. Town Hall. *Participedia* [online]. Available from:
<https://participedia.net/method/5312>

WIKIPEDIA. Town hall meeting. *Wikipedia* [online]. Available from:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Town_hall_meeting

GUIDE. Planning a Town Hall Meeting: Get Started with Four Easy Steps. *GuideInc.org* [online]. Available from:
<https://guideinc.org/2015/09/03/planning-a-town-hall-meeting-get-started-with-four-easy-steps/>