

Panel discussion

A panel discussion is a public debate in front of an audience. The panel consists of experts, chosen to reflect different opinions. The moderator keeps the discussion going by asking the panelists questions, moderating the discussion, and ensuring that each panel member has an equal opportunity to speak.

You are hereby invited to participate in a panel discussion.

There are three roles :

- moderator
- panelist
- audience

Structured panel discussion format :

- a welcome period, introducing the panel as a whole
- panelist introductions
- panelist presentations and initial comments
- questions that are curated by a moderator direct to the panelists
- questions from the audience that are directed to the panelists in some way
- summary of what was discussed
- thanking those who participated and any other closing remarks.

There are three popular styles of going about using the elements to guide a powerful panel event.

- **Q&A Style** typically includes a quick introduction of the topic and panelists, around three-quarters of the time for fielding and answering questions, ending with showing gratitude and summarizing the discussion. Questions can be asked solely from the crowd as well as including curated questions from the moderator. While any style can be tailored to your panel experience, Q&A is by far the most popular. This is due to the additional levels of engagement from everyone involved in comparison with the other two styles.
- **Initial Remarks Style** allows for dedicating additional time to the panelists to open up about their perspectives on the topic of the discussion. This style starts with a quick introduction, then provides around a quarter of the time for the panelists to introduce themselves and their standpoint on the discussion. Then around half of the time is spent answering curated questions from a moderator and the crowd. The discussion then ends with a summary and thanking those who participated.
- **Presentation style** provides an additional level of showmanship, being widely used on television for debates and social commentary shows hosted by those such as Trevor Noah. The discussion begins with an introduction as always. From there, each panelist shares their perspective through a full-scale presentation, taking up three-quarters of the time. The occasion ends with a short Q&A session and closing remarks.

Something that can be noted is that engagement between the crowd and the panelists is a part of every session. How questions are fielded and answered by panelists vary. Often, a microphone is placed on a stand where people wait in line or is simply passed around to those interested in asking a question. Another format used is asking questions through social media platforms like Twitter using a hashtag.

Anyway we can choose in class what structure we will prefer but you have to prepare an introduction of yourself and of the topic, and also be prepared of the question that can be asked by the audience and the moderator if you are a panelist.
The moderator has to think about different question, same for the audience.

For better understanding of this debate format, please have a look at this video to have an example of panel discussion and also take a look to this page that explain a little more :
<https://learn.g2.com/panel-discussion>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FKbu6YDqQP8>

Literature

<https://kth.instructure.com/courses/6127/assignments/33647>

<https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/choosing-best-panel-discussion-format-your-event-2019-riley-moore>