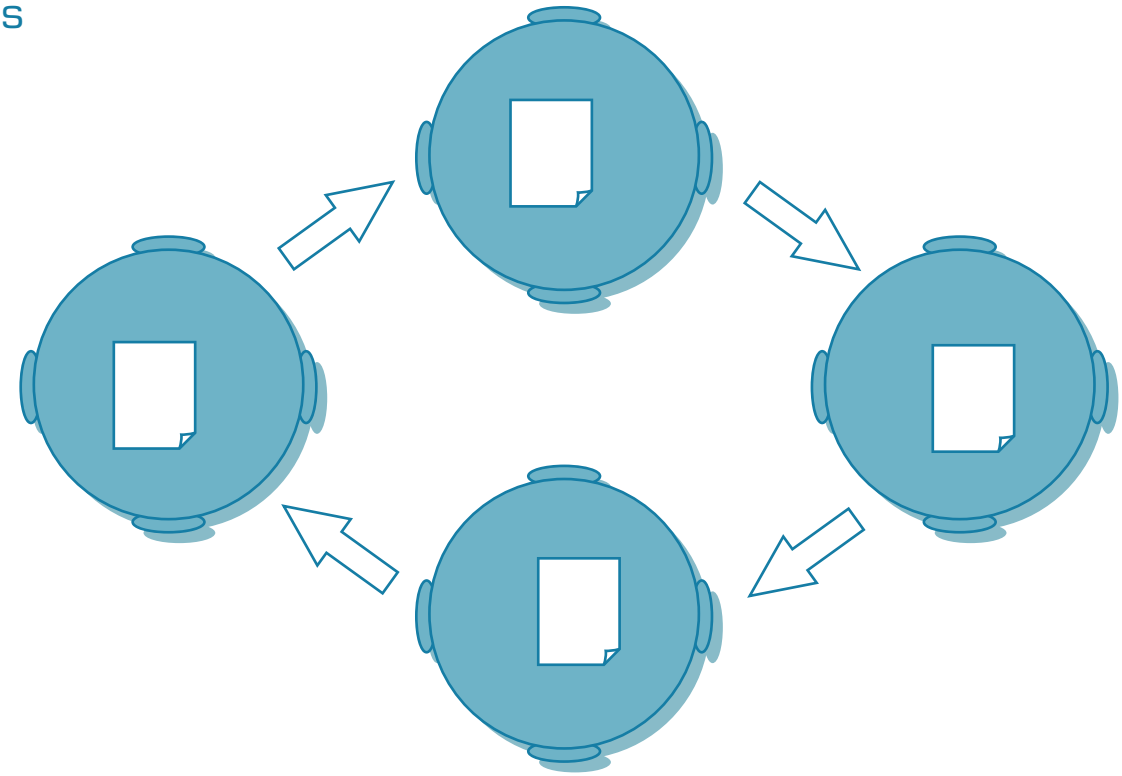
Noisy Round Robin

Purpose

This activity encourages contributions to discussion from all participants and provides a mechanism to gain an insight into the priorities and consensus that exist within a group.

Process



- Split the main group into small groups of four to six people.
- Each group has a blank sheet for recording their responses. Each group elects a scribe.
- Each group is given the same problem, task or topic.
- At a given signal, participants suggest their responses, and the elected scribe records them on the sheet of paper.
- After one minute (shortened to 30 seconds or extended to two minutes to reflect the complexity of the ideas), the sheets of paper are passed to the group on the right. That group reads the responses on the sheet and adds any new information, but:
  - no information can be repeated on any one sheet
  - information that a group records on one sheet cannot be repeated on any other sheet
- Participants keep passing responses to the right until ideas dry up or until the sheet is returned to its original group.
- If ideas seem to be drying up, ask the groups to:
  - look at changes in the handwriting to identify any marked differences in the responses of the various groups. Can they identify a perspective or viewpoint that gave rise to that set of responses? Does this spark any new ideas for them? How does it compare to their perspective?

  or
  - prioritise or get consensus about the items on the list according to criteria such as 'the most practical', 'the most important', 'the most needed in our school'.

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