BCSL Assignment 5

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Title: Group Discussion

Problem Definition:

Participating in group discussions on current affairs / social issues / ethics and etiquettes.

Objective(s):

- To present the discussion in an effective, convincing and time bound manner.
- To observe presentation skill of material along with individual oratory skills.
- Learn in detail about the various personality traits, viz; awareness, initiation, body language, paralinguistic features, confidence, etc. that are assessed during group discussions
- Learn how to perform as a team players &also emerge as a leader in a group

Definition, Description and Types:

A group discussion or 'GD' for short is a type of discussion that involves people sharing ideas or activities. People in the group discussion relate to one basic idea. Based on that idea, everyone in the group represents his/her perspective. GD tests skills such as leadership, communication, social and behavioral skills, and traits such as politeness, teamwork and listening ability. It also showcases a
person's confidence and problem-solving skills. Generally, a group discussion is monitored by a group of Panelists who evaluate the performance of each candidate/participant.

There are 3 main types of group discussions:

1. Topical group discussions.
2. Case-study group discussions
3. Abstract group discussions

Steps for Group Discussion:

1. Selection of topic – Electric Vehicles
2. Selection of group members.
3. Collection of material and classification.
4. Analysis and arrangement of ideas logically.
5. Select the medium of presentation.
6. Select the medium of presentation.
7. Conclusion about the discussion

Do's and Don'ts of Group Discussion:

Dos:

1. Listen to the subject carefully.
2. Put down your thoughts on a paper.
3. Initiate the discussion if you know the subject well.
4. Listen to others if you don't know the subject well.
5. Support your point with some facts and figures.
6. Give others a chance to speak as well.
7. Speak politely and pleasantly.
8. Disagree politely.
9. Summarize the discussion as it moves towards a certain conclusion.

Don'ts:

1. Over speak, intervene, and snatch other's chance to speak.
2. Argue and shout during the GD.
3. Look at the evaluators or a particular group member.
4. Talk irrelevant things that take the discussion away from the topic.
5. Mention erratic statistics.

6. Pose negative body gestures like touching the nose, leaning back on the chair, knocking the table with a pen, etc.
7. Put others in embarrassing situations by asking them to speak if they don't want to.

Difference between Group Discussion and Debate:

Group Discussion is an analytical and interactive process, wherein expression of thoughts, ideas, opinions, and facts take place by way of open communication, between participants. On the other hand, a debate is a systematic contest or discussion on a specific issue, in which the participants put forward opposing arguments and it ends with a final decision based on votes.

1. Debates are competitive whereas GD is co-operative.
2. There are usually 2 opposite sides (Support/For and Against) in a debate whereas in a GD, everyone discusses on a common subject of interest.
3. Debates take place in a more orderly fashion where candidates have to take turns presenting their views on their side of the argument and have a limited amount of time to do so. On the other hand, in a GD, anyone can present their views at any point once another has completed their point.
4. Debates involve a winning or a losing side which is not the case for GDs.
5. In a debate, the participants speak on the particular topic only. In a group, discussion arguments can take a different direction, but deviations should be avoided.

Conclusion:

Group discussions on any topic play a vital role in understanding the topic. Discussing a topic with friends or classmates helps in learning the topic with perfection. Everyone can have a different approach or perspective to the subject of discussion which may have their own pros and cons. It helps us to both ask as well answer questions which otherwise would have no suitable medium.