

# Using the Card Deal Method

## A Process to Enhance Class Discussion

### Purpose

In the card deal method, each student is given a word card that includes a relevant term from the assigned readings, or a blank card on which a word of the student's choosing can be written. Facilitating a class discussion on the session theme or topic, you will instruct the students to contribute the term on their cards when the word can be meaningfully integrated into the class conversation. This is the card deal—to draw the attention and contribution of as many students as possible in class discussion, while reinforcing key concepts and accurate identification of terms.

To assist the students in the direction of the discussion and application of word terms before class, post themes or categories related to the topic on newsprint or on the board. To strengthen concepts and examine the terms in a relevant context, the students can write the word or tape the card to the board or newsprint under appropriate discussion themes or categories when the term has been used. Guide the discussion through introductory comments and questions, related readings or Scripture passages, or personal narratives or experiences. The contribution of specific terms is the students' task. If specific words have not been used as the discussion moves to the next topic or draws to a close, at that point you can mention any unused words and invite the students with those words to consider where each might best fit in the discussion and the related categories.

### Materials Needed

- word list of twenty to thirty words relevant to the session topic for class discussion; the number of cards needed will depend on the class size
- twenty to thirty words written on index cards; several blank cards if needed
- three or four categories of themes related to terms written horizontally on the board or on newsprint
- assigned readings from student articles

### Method Steps

1. Before class write categories or themes on the board or on newsprint.
2. Randomly distribute the cards to students before the class discussion.
3. Introduce the topic of the session, and allow 5 minutes for the students to quietly examine the categories and consider the meaning and relevance of their specific words.
4. Initiate class discussion with comments, quotations, or questions. Remind the students to make relevant contributions to the discussion using their specific words.
5. As words are used, record or post them on newsprint or the board.



6. At the conclusion of the guided discussion, ask students with unused words to consider where each might be included.
7. Summarize the key points of the discussion.

