COMMON TEACHING METHODS
Lecture

STRENGTHS:
- presents factual material in direct, logical manner
- contains experience which inspires
- stimulates thinking to open discussion
- useful for large groups

LIMITATIONS:
- experts are not always good teachers
- audience is passive
- learning is difficult to gauge
- communication in one way

PREPARATION:
- needs clear introduction and summary
- needs time and content limit to be effective
- should include examples, anecdotes
Lecture With Discussion

**STRENGTHS:**
- involves audience at least after the lecture
- audience can question, clarify & challenge

**LIMITATIONS:**
- time may limit discussion period
- quality is limited to quality of questions and discussion

**PREPARATION:**
- requires that questions be prepared prior to discussion
Panel of Experts

**STRENGTHS:**
- allows experts to present different opinions
- can provoke better discussion than a one person discussion
- frequent change of speaker keeps attention from lagging

**LIMITATIONS:**
- experts may not be good speakers
- personalities may overshadow content
- subject may not be in logical order

**PREPARATION:**
- facilitator coordinates focus of panel, introduces and summarizes
- briefs panel
Brainstorming

**STRENGTHS:**
- listening exercise that allows creative thinking for new ideas
- encourages full participation because all ideas equally recorded
- draws on group's knowledge and experience
- spirit of congeniality is created
- one idea can spark off other other ideas

**LIMITATIONS:**
- can be unfocused
- needs to be limited to 5 - 7 minutes
- people may have difficulty getting away from known reality
- if not facilitated well, criticism and evaluation may occur

**PREPARATION:**
- facilitator selects issue
- must have some ideas if group needs to be stimulated
Videotapes

- **STRENGTHS:**
  - entertaining way of teaching content and raising issues
  - keep group's attention
  - looks professional
  - stimulates discussion

- **LIMITATIONS:**
  - can raise too many issues to have a focused discussion
  - discussion may not have full participation
  - only as effective as following discussion

- **PREPARATION:**
  - need to set up equipment
  - effective only if facilitator prepares questions to discuss after the show
Class Discussion

STRENGTHS:
- pools ideas and experiences from group
- effective after a presentation, film or experience that needs to be analyzed
- allows everyone to participate in an active process

LIMITATIONS:
- not practical with more than 20 people
- few people can dominate
- others may not participate
- is time consuming
- can get off the track

PREPARATION:
- requires careful planning by facilitator to guide discussion
- requires question outline
Small Group Discussion

- **STRENGTHS:**
  - allows participation of everyone
  - people often more comfortable in small groups
  - can reach group consensus

- **LIMITATIONS:**
  - needs careful thought as to purpose of group
  - groups may get side tracked

- **PREPARATION:**
  - needs to prepare specific tasks or questions for group to answer
Case Studies

STRENGTHS:
- develops analytic and problem solving skills
- allows for exploration of solutions for complex issues
- allows student to apply new knowledge and skills

LIMITATIONS:
- people may not see relevance to own situation
- insufficient information can lead to inappropriate results

PREPARATION:
- case must be clearly defined in some cases
- case study must be prepared
Role Playing

- **STRENGTHS:**
  - introduces problem situation dramatically
  - provides opportunity for people to assume roles of others and thus appreciate another point of view
  - allows for exploration of solutions
  - provides opportunity to practice skills

- **LIMITATIONS:**
  - people may be too self-conscious
  - not appropriate for large groups
  - people may feel threatened

- **PREPARATION:**
  - trainer has to define problem situation and roles clearly
  - trainer must give very clear instructions
Report-Back Sessions

STRENGTHS:
- allows for large group discussion of role plays, case studies, and small group exercise
- gives people a chance to reflect on experience
- each group takes responsibility for its operation

LIMITATIONS:
- can be repetitive if each small group says the same thing

PREPARATION:
- trainer has to prepare questions for groups to discuss
Worksheets/Surveys

- STRENGTHS:
  - allows people to think for themselves without being influenced by others
  - individual thoughts can then be shared in large group

- LIMITATIONS:
  - can be used only for short period of time

- PREPARATION:
  - facilitator has to prepare handouts