Facilitating Small Groups: Elements of a Teaching Plan

Teaching Strategy and Discussion Structure
- Sequence of topics/pedagogical logic of the session
- A clear sense of objectives for the session—not only what students will do but what they will learn.

Question Plan
- Types and sequencing of questions:
  - information-seeking
  - analytical
  - challenging or follow-up questions
  - action-oriented (what would you do)
  - hypothetical (providing different assumptions)
  - predictive (for comparison with what actually happened)
  - generalizing/drawing together

Opening
- A strategy to begin—your moment of greatest control.

Transitions
- Anticipating how to move through points or topics.

Group Process
- Reflecting on the group’s dynamics thus far, planning for team work, reinforcing relationships, noting problem areas.

Audiovisuals, Boardwork, Other Media
- Be acquainted with all the materials you’ll use and how they will work together.

Closing
- Anticipating where and how you should end.

Getting and Using Feedback
- Using formal and informal methods to judge the outcomes of your teaching and the group’s work. Factoring the feedback back into your overall teaching plan.