Focused Conversation Method Structure

**Topic:** The focus or subject of the conversation

**Rational Aim:** The intent or practical goal of the conversation.

**Experiential Aim:** The inner impact and the overall experience of the conversation on the group.

*Opening: Welcome, context*

*Closing: Comments, reflection*

**OBJECTIVE**
Getting the Facts, Sensory Impressions, Information

**REFLECTIVE**
Personal Reactions, Associations, Emotions, Images

**INTERPRETIVE**
Meaning, Values, Significance, Purpose, Implications

**DECISIONAL**
Resolution Action Future Direction, Next Steps

*ToP* Group Facilitation Methods: Focused Conversation

Focused Conversation Method Overview

**Topic:** The focus or subject of the conversation: it sets the boundaries of the conversation.

**Rational Aim:** The intent or practical goal of the conversation. It guides the collective thinking process and determines the direction of the conversation.

**Experiential Aim:** The inner impact of the conversation. It affects the mood of the group and sets the tone of the communication between participants.

**Opening:** To set the stage for the conversation & introduce the topic

**Objective Level Questions:**
- To engage the five senses (sight, sound, taste, smell, and touch)
- Invites inclusive participation and focuses attention
- Gets out the facts and objective data

**Reflective Level Questions:**
- To elicit and acknowledge imaginative, intuitive, and emotional responses
- Acknowledges emotions, memories, and initial associations
- Invites participants to use their imagination

**Interpretive Level Questions:**
- To elicit the sharing of experiences and individual meaning
- Builds collective consciousness and shared awareness within the group
- Identifies available options and possibilities

**Decisional Level Questions:**
- To develop depth level collective opinions or resolve that may lead to future action
- Draws out the deeper meaning from participants
- Makes conversation meaningful and relevant to the future
- Exposes individual and group choice

**Closing:** To show appreciation and possibly bridge to next steps