

Teaching Seminars
Outline for 2008 AALS Workshop for New Law Teachers

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Seminar Models: Challenges and Techniques

1) Low-enrollment course

Challenges: Few people can mean low energy
Heavy burden on each student
Balancing student/teacher participation

Techniques: “Talk amongst yourselves”
Group students for participation
Speed rounds
Facilitating discussion
Don’t be afraid to talk

2) Discussion group

Challenges: Unfamiliar types of materials
Less directed kind of conversation
(more space for development of their own ideas)

Techniques: Response papers
Hub and spoke conversation
Class conversation

3) Paper writing

Challenges: Picking a topic
Airing problems and insights
Pacing of research and writing
Maintaining group dynamic (?)

Techniques: Offer topics to choose from
Pairing/Brainstorming
Setting a schedule:
a) Pick an area, and then a topic (2-4 sentences). Confer (usually 2x).
b) Literature review. Confer.
c) Some item of research (case catalog, statutory summary, or whatever). Confer.
d) Draft. Confer. [Draft 2?]
e) Final.
Presentations???