

# FIRESIDE CHAT

Try sharing out in a different kind of way. Consider using a 'Fireside Chat' format.

Sometimes sharing out in a whole group – especially if not everyone knows everyone or if it's a large group – can be intimidating and eat up a lot of time. This format helps to reduce the pressure that participants sometimes feel when they are the sole center of attention. “Yikes! They’re all looking at me!”

To organize a fireside chat for your conference, training, or small group gathering, here are some simple recommendations to help you do it well:

- Instruct participants to interact with their chat partner(s). Try to keep the group to 1-2 participants. Make sure it's a two-sided conversation and not a one-way chat. Be sure there is enough time to hear each person's point of view and give each other their undivided attention.
- Encourage participants to find somewhere comfortable and cozy – away from a large conference room-type table to discuss/share their ideas with another person.
- Set a roadmap. Determine the key points of your chat in advance and organize them in a logical progression—including the length of each segment and the whole. Announce the structure at the beginning of your session and track the milestones as you proceed.

**Above all, it should be conversational.**

