



The Discussion Case

Melody J. Eckardt MD MPH FACOG

16 March 2010

Objectives:

At the end of this session, the participant should be able to:

- Define or describe a discussion case
- Discuss advantages and disadvantages of discussion cases in clinical teaching
- Understand how case discussion works based on the demonstration
- Observe skills involved in managing classroom discussion.

The Discussion Case

- Is comprised of a complete case presentation which is read and studied by students.
- During the class time, the case is discussed in detail via questions and answers with the professor.

The Discussion Case: Purpose

- To learn the decision points and thought processes which determine outcomes

This is the most common type of case used in many disciplines.

The Discussion Case: Characteristics

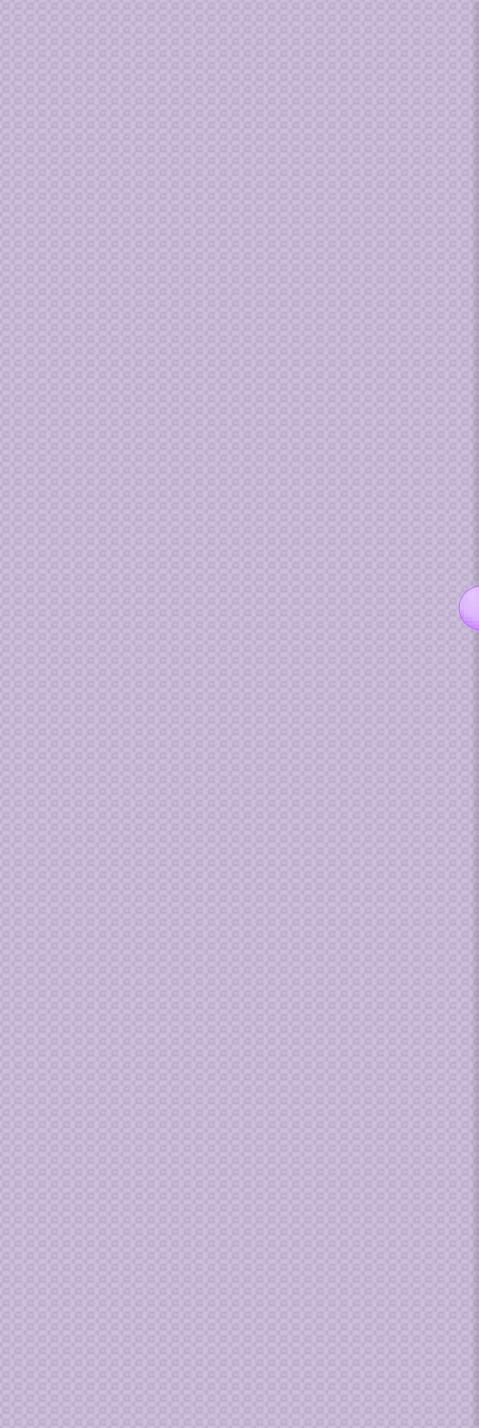
- Generally longer and more detailed
- It provides multiple and varied teaching opportunities.
 - Less focused on a specific topic
 - Provides opportunities for teaching broader social context and health systems challenges.

The Case Discussion: Mechanics

- Start by having students summarize the case
- Focus on decision points in the case
- Discuss the thought process behind these decision points and alternatives.
- Ask questions from several vantage points to enhance the analysis of the case



DEMONSTRATION



- **What Are The Advantages And Disadvantages Of Case Discussions?**

Case Discussion: Advantages

- Broad opportunity for teaching both clinical and social aspects of health.
- Students engage in the learning process with the professor and each other in real time.
- Real life context demonstrates immediate applicability for adult learners

Case Discussion: Disadvantages

- Longer to prepare
- Requires effort and careful orchestration for the professor to keep the conversation moving toward the objectives.
- Main points must be carefully emphasized