

## HOW-TO: PANEL DISCUSSIONS

**Description:** A panel discussion is generally comprised of *six to eight people* whose background, achievements, training, or education prepare them to be capable of contributing to a discussion on a specific theme. A **moderator** guides the participants through the event. The purpose is to (a) explore a theme or topic from many views, professions, and range of experiences, (b) generate a desire to continue to implement or apply new ideas to personal or professional life /work, (c) foster a desire to continue to explore and learn.



**(1) Task of planners** includes coming up with a catchy title for the panel, arrange for good people to be part of the panel and someone to serve as

**(2) Task of moderator** is to prepare the space to maximize event, know the audience, prepare open-ended questions in advance as a back-up, engage the audience as needed to stimulate discussion, encourage discussion, control and referee (if needed) the tone and direction of the dialog. Wrap it up by encouraging the dialog and discussion to continue and to “go home” with the audience.

**(3) Task of panel members:** Be prepared, be polite, be professional, participate, and stimulate thinking among audience and panel members.

### Examples of Panel Discussion Titles:

*“A Juggling Act: Keeping Both Mind and Spirit in Play”*

*“Size 10 Feet in a Size 5 Shoe: Engaging and Winning the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Person”*

*“It’s Alive!”: Bringing Positive Values and Ethics Back into Business and Politics”*

*“Theirs, Yours, Ours: Finding Common Cultural Grounds for Faith Development”*

*“Deep & Wide: New Views of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Pentecostalism”*

*“Pass the Salt: Sending Christians into the Helping Professions”*

*“Can You Hear Me Yet?: Communicating In A Crowd of Communicators”*

*“Return to Mars Hill: Christians Among the Gods & Values of a Post-Modern World”*

(These may be used or create your own remembering to make it something to generate interest and inquiry)

### **Panel Discussion Proposal**

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Information \_\_\_\_\_

Panel Topic Proposal \_\_\_\_\_

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Suggested For the Noel Brooks Memorial Conference: 2012 \_\_\_ 2013 \_\_\_ 2014 \_\_\_ 2015 \_\_\_ 2016 \_\_\_ 2017 \_\_\_

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