



Leading Symposium Conversations

Who Should Lead?

If you're thinking of leading – or facilitating – a symposium conversation, you should ask yourself the following questions:

- Are you prepared to be publicly uncomfortable and hear difficult (even untrue) statements?
- Can you listen to comments and continue probing for understanding without getting defensive and responding to every comment?
- Can you be fair and even-handed in asking questions and listening?

If you can't answer YES to all of these questions, then perhaps facilitating symposium conversations is not the best role for you to play. If you aren't sure, our experience is that practice – role playing conversations before the actual event – is a good way to gain the confidence to lead conversations.