Active Learning Focus Group

Facilitator Instructions

Before the focus group:

- Make sure you can get into the room, and get the computer started! Plug in the microphone.

When the participant arrives:

1. Welcome participants according to the script and obtain consent. Also give them each a blank copy of the consent form to keep.

2. Go through the rest of the preamble in the script.

3. On the computer, start Audacity. Choose "Save Project As…" and name the file includng the date.

4. Put the microphone in the middle of the table and check that it's set to "omnidirectional".

5. Click the Red Dot to start recording.

6. Go around and get everyone to say a quick sentence and their name (or they can choose a pseudonym if they want). You won't put names in the transcript, but having their name with their voice will help you when you're transcribing.

7. Then start the questions! At the end of the conversation, Stop recording, Save the file in Audacity and close it.

8. Thank them for participating, ask if they have any more questions, and let them go!

9. In Audacity, EXPORT each project file (the *.aup files) to a *.wav format. Upload the *.wav files to MacDrive using the Upload link.

10. Make sure to go into Sona and give the participant credit.

Team-Based Learning in the Linguistics Program
Appendix B
Focus Group Guide

Primary Investigator: Dr. Catherine Anderson
Student Investigator: Nadia Bachar

<u>Introduction</u>
Hello, my name is Nadia. Thank you for agreeing to participate in this focus group. Remember that we're investigating your experiences with team-based learning in Ling 2PS3 / 3C03. You'll receive one hour of experiment participation credit on Sona, and you are welcome to help yourself to snacks.

A focus group is an interactive group discussion where we can gain several perspectives about a topic and members of the group can think about and comment on what others have said in the group.

Before we get started, please take a look through the consent form. You'll notice that I'm going to be audio-recording this conversation and the risks to participating are minimal, and I'll talk about confidentiality in a minute. If you consent to participate, please sign the form, and here is a copy for you to keep.

Now let's talk about confidentiality and some basic ground rules.

- Everyone's views are welcomed and important.
- The information which we will collect today will be attributable to you <u>as a group</u>.
- We will not identify quotes or ideas with any one person of this group. Because of the nature of small communities or groups, it is possible that people could link participants in this room to quotes in the report. This is why we need to talk about confidentiality.
- We are assuming that when we learn about one another's views, they remain confidential. In a small program like this, people are identifiable to some degree by their views and opinions.
- Having said this, and having made these requests, you know that we cannot guarantee that the request will be honoured by everyone in the room.
- So we are asking you to make only those comments that you would be comfortable making in a public setting; and to hold back making comments that you would not say publicly. You can skip any questions that you don't want to answer.
- If you want to stop being in the focus group you can you can leave at any time, or you can stay and simply stop talking. If you do leave or stop talking, it will not be possible for us to remove your data from the flow of the conversation because of the interconnected nature of the group discussion.
- Anything heard in the room should stay in the room.

- All voices are to be heard, so I will step in if too many people are speaking at once or to make sure that everyone has a chance to speak.
- I may also step in if I feel the conversation is straying off topic.
- You can expect this discussion group to last about 50 minutes.

Audio-Recording

- I'm recording this conversation to increase accuracy and to reduce the chance of misinterpreting what anyone says.
- The recording is stored on my password-protected computer temporarily, and then uploaded to a secure server.
- When I transcribe the recording, I'll remove all names and identifying details.

Questions

What has your experience with team-based learning been like in this course? Overall, has it been positive or negative?
- Describe a rewarding experience
- Describe a challenging experience

What do you think about the weighting of team and individual components of your course grade?
- Is it fair?
- Should it be different in some way? What would you suggest should be different?

In your program and courses in general, do you feel like you're competing with your student peers? How does your experience with team-based learning in this class affect your perception of competition among students?
- How does that compare to other classes that don't use teamwork?
- Does team-based learning make you feel more or less like you're competing with student peers?

When you're working in small teams, how does your experience of gender dynamics compare to classes with whole-class discussions?
- Do men and women participate equally in each setting?

Is there anything else you'd like us to know about your experience of team-based learning in this class?

Wrapping up
- Please remember to keep this conversation confidential.
- Thank you for participating!
- I'll add the participation credit on Sona today.