

Internship Group Reflection Format

Case is emailed to Group Facilitator and Colleagues at least 48 hours before class begins

Students should send the case at least 48 hours before class so that the facilitators can have a chance to read the case in advance, send it to the other students, and print out hard copies for discussion.

Opening Ritual / Practice / Check-In

5:00-5:10

Given that our time in these reflection groups is energetically somewhat different than most classes at STM, it is useful to begin with a practice that marks the space

1. Presentation of Case (5-7 Minutes)

5:10-5:15

Paper copies of the case are handed to the group. The presenter shares the Experience, Social Dynamics, and Contextualization sections of their Theological Reflection.

2. Clarifying Questions (5-7 Minutes)

5:15-5:20

Group is given the opportunity to ask questions to help increase comprehension of the details of the experience/dynamic being reflected upon. Additional background information can be asked for or specifics that might not be clear can be clarified. This is not the time for speculation or reflection, it is merely an opportunity to make sure that the group understands the context and nature of the case.

3. Presenter Reflection (5-7 Minutes)

5:20-5:25

The presenter shares the Connection, Re-consideration, Integration sections of their Theological Reflection.

4. Reflective Questions to Presenter (10-15 Minutes)

5:25-5:40

Begin this section with a 1-2 minute pause for individual reflection. Group members should ask themselves: “What questions are emerging that would help the presenter reflect on this experience more deeply?” Self-awakening questions can help the presenter explore new, and perhaps unexplored dimensions of their story and analysis. These questions help the presenter, as they respond to them, to reflect on feelings, images, concerns, and purpose, as well as themes and patterns. Questions are not designed to push solutions or seek to “fix” the problem. It is important for participants to be focused on the presenter, and not what one is going to say next. These are questions for the presenter to answer that are more reflective, comparative, and/or speculative than the clarifying questions.

5. Group Reflection (15-20 Minutes)

5:40-6:00

Begin this section with a 1-2 minute pause for individual reflection. Group members should ask themselves: “What insights from your own personal, professional, and/or educational experience come to mind? What wisdom does your faith tradition and/or value system offer here?” After the group has had an opportunity to ask questions of the presenter and the presenter has had an opportunity to respond, the group shifts into a time of reflection among group members in which the presenter is actively listening but not participating as a speaker. Here the group members go even deeper in reflection, seeing if there are other theological resources that could be brought to bear in analysis, reflecting on how *they* might consider the case, and further naming what they observed in the presenter’s analysis. Unless a new question for clarification emerges, the group should resist engaging the presenter at this point. It is a time for the remainder of the group to contribute reflections, resources, connections, and analysis from their own perspectives and experiences. This is not an opportunity for advice-giving or fixing, but a chance for two main things.

- First, it is a time for the group to practice peer supervision and theological reflection in a context in which diverse perspectives and experiences are present. Learning to theologically reflect in a group among differing theological orientations is a goal here.
- Second, it is a chance for the presenter to listen and hear others weigh in on the case, learning from the group's wisdom, reflection, and analysis. This can be useful as the presenter is personally tied to the case whereas the group is reflecting on it without that direct connection. Sometimes the group reflects some relevant trends, dynamics, or themes from the case that the presenter was not able to see.

6. Presenter's Response and Reflection (5 Minutes)

6:00-6:05

After the group has finished reflection, the presenter is invited to share any closing thoughts they might have after having heard the group continue to process the case. The Examen provides a useful set of framing questions. They will not always each be useful, but allowing yourself to sit with each of them in the close can be a helpful way to see if God is lifting anything in particular up to be spoken before we close:

- Gratitude: What are you most thankful for as you reflect on the discussions around your case study? Is there any insight or feedback that particularly resonated with you?
- Petition: As you move forward, what specific guidance or wisdom are you seeking, either from your peers, mentors, or the divine, to more faithfully address the experience or dynamic outlined in your case study?
- Review: After hearing the group's perspectives, what aspects of your case study do you believe you understood well, and what areas do you feel might need further reflection or action?
- Forgiveness: Is there anything you wish you had done differently in the case study presented? How are you coming to terms with any errors or omissions, and what steps might you take for reconciliation or correction?

- Renewal: What new commitments or changes do you feel inspired to make as a result of this group discussion? How do you plan to implement these in your ongoing ministerial work?

7. Closing (5 Minutes)

6:05-6:10

A member of the group (or the facilitator) closes the process with prayer and affirmation for the presenter. All paper copies of the case are returned to the presenter.

8. Break (10 Minutes)

6:10-6:20