

What is the Solution Focused Roundtable?

- A kitchen table conversation. Think of your role in hosting a great conversation at the table in your home.

What are its distinctive characteristics?

- Moderated group discussion.
- The approach models the dynamics of a conversation among family and friends.
- The kitchen table is where we share laughs, trade news, get to know each other, talk about what's important, talk about the future, make plans and commitments, and speak from the heart.
- Discussion is focused around a central topic.
- Conversation is kept on track by all participants with assistance from the host/moderator
- It can be among a small group, or 100 + people.
- Solutions Focus questions are used throughout.

What are the benefits of this approach?

- A comprehensive set of issues is evoked.
- There is in-depth deliberation of key themes.
- Subtle insights are amplified to the point of clarity.
- Questions from participants to each other add insight.
- There is the flexibility to respond right away to fresh questions as they come up while keeping the focus squarely on the objectives that have been set.
- Ripple effects happen. Different kinds of conversations take place during and after the sessions leading to different kinds of action. The objective and theme of the process provide direction and purpose for this chain-reaction.
- Networking and relationship building occurs naturally and effortlessly. When used inside organizations, this helps dissolve the silos and competitiveness. When used with business partners and customers, this leads to new revenue and better results.

The Roundtable Format

- No preparation by the panel is necessary.
- Think of the session as a conversation.
- There is no pre-set list of questions from the moderator.
- The panel will be seated in a circle – the audience will be around them in an outer circle or at roundtables
- The moderator will open by framing the issue for the audience.
- The panel will then be introduced.
- Each of the panelists will be asked for their first shot at answering the overall question.
- We then open up the conversation.
- Towards the end we can open up the discussion in the audience.
- In some situations the panel (and the audience if there is one) may then work on a specific project task.
- We end with closing observations from the panelists (and sometimes the observers).

This roundtable approach was developed in collaboration with PostStone www.PostStone.com