WORKING GROUP SESSION: FEEDBACK ON POLICY BRIEF OUTLINES (WPS1G)

Module
Writing for Policy Audiences (WP)

Format
Small group discussion

Purpose
This activity contributes to the module learning objectives by giving feedback to participants to improve their outline for a policy brief that communicates research findings to a defined policy audience.

Time Required
• 1.5 hrs.

Working Group Description
Participants are grouped into Working Groups of 3-5 participants based on their research topics. Through the Working Group sessions, participants are asked to apply the concepts and skills taught in the workshop to their own data or research.

Activity Description
This Working Group Session is focused on giving feedback to the group members on their outlines for a policy brief.

Participants are assigned to turn in their policy brief outlines ahead of the session. The group facilitator should review each outline. Look to see if the person is on track as far as an audience, objective, clear and simple evidence-based messages, and recommendations related to the key messages. Try to identify strengths for each person, as well as note where they need to improve. During the session, provide feedback orally to each participant. Although you are giving individual feedback to each member, in the group setting try to deliver the feedback in a way that is useful for everyone to learn from. Foster discussion along the way about the challenges they have run into so far. The discussion of strengths, weaknesses, and challenges that comes out of feedback to each individual proves useful in building the skills for all participants.

Estimate approximately 20 minutes of discussion per participant.
Key Learning Concept(s)

- Selecting and structuring appropriate content for a policy brief.
- Clear and simple evidence-based messages.
- Connecting findings, implications, and recommendations to a particular audience and communication objective.
- Applying principles of good policy writing.

Materials Needed

- Group members’ outlines (reviewed ahead of time)

Associated Exercises

- Working Group Sessions
- Writing a Policy Brief (WP4L)
- Critiquing a Policy Brief (WP5E)