

# The Science Museum discussion model

The Science Museum uses Maslow's hierarchy of needs as the framework for its discussion events.

The bottom three layers represent the needs that must be fulfilled in order to achieve a successful discussion.

Participants need to feel physically comfortable and confident to enjoy and participate in the event.

The same principles apply to running a classroom discussion.

## Some ideas to consider:

- Is the room arranged so that everyone can see and hear each other?
- Do you need to set ground rules, allocate roles to encourage personal involvement or create anonymity?
- What size of groups will the students work in – small groups or a whole-class discussion?
- Is there content that will engage students with different learning styles?
- Do your students need supporting or background information?
- Is the discussion topic relevant or interesting to your students?
- What is your hook? What angle will engage your students and make them want to talk?
- How will the discussion be concluded?

With all this considered you should enjoy a great discussion!

