

Lean Coffee Tables

Standard Work Instructions (72 mins)

Purpose: *Facilitate structured discussions on topics participants find most important and relevant.* Unpack and expand insights that arise from listening to the speakers and others.

Materials:

- Tables for 6-8 participants
- 3x3 Post-it notes and Sharpies
- Flipchart paper for each table

Process:

1. Setup and Topic Generation (12 min)

- Facilitator explains exercise and prompts (2 min):
 - **"What should we be talking about?"**
 - **"Why is it important in your company, industry, or field?"**

Elaborate on the challenges/problems and the case for change (perhaps by sector and/or function).

- Participants write topics on Post-its (one topic per note) (3 min)
- Each person pitches their topic(s) in 30 seconds max (5 min)
- Dot voting: 3 votes per person for preferred topics (2 min)

2. Discussions (45 min)

- Discuss topics in order of votes received
- Start with 10 minutes per topic, extend by consensus if needed
- Everyone participates concisely and respectfully
- Record key insights or new questions on separate Post-its

3. Table Report Out (10 min)

- Round-robin sharing of each table's highest priority insight or question

4. Documentation (5 min)

- Transfer ALL Post-its to Symposium Discussion Board in appropriate areas

Key Points for Table Facilitators:

- Assign a timekeeper for the table
- Ensure equal participation and respectful discussion
- Keep discussions focused and on-time
- Encourage recording of insights throughout

Wrap-up:

- Remind participants to shuffle seating for the next round
- Highlight that this is the first of three rounds, each with different speakers and guiding questions

Total Time: 72 minutes

Note: Subsequent rounds can follow the same structure, instructions can refer back to previous rounds. Adapt the guiding questions as appropriate.

Potential guiding questions for Round 1: Supply Chain Transformation

- *What are the challenges/problems in your field?*
- *What capabilities are needed?*
- *What experiments are needed for addressing the challenges/problems and building new capabilities?*

Potential guiding questions for Round 2: Technology Integration

- *What are other disruptive technologies?*
- *How do these impact customer value-creating work in your field?*
- *How do these impact problem solving, improvement, and innovation work in your field?*
- *What experiments are needed to move along the learning curve?*

Potential guiding questions for Round 3: Workplace & Workforce Evolution

- *What are other changes to the workplace?*
- *What are other ways of educating and building capability?*
- *What experiments are needed for education and capability development to keep pace with change?*

Reference: <https://leancoffee.org/>

