

## COMMON TECHNIQUES FOR TEACHING WITH SPs

### 1. ONE COMPLETE INTERVIEW AFTER ANOTHER

A designated number of students can be chosen to interview the SP. They may be asked to wait outside the room until their turn, or they may stay in the class to observe the other interviews. Each student completes an interview from beginning to end with feedback provided after each interview.

- **Advantages:** the classmates who are observing see three complete interviews with varying approaches to a problem. Feedback to each student remains specific and high in quality.
- **Disadvantages:** the student(s) waiting outside don't get the benefit of observing the other interviews & their anxiety level rises as they wait their iturn. Interviewers who have observed the others may find it difficult to "forget" what they have seen & heard. The experience may seem less realistic with each additional interviewer.

### 2. TAG-TEAM APPROACH

Have an SP scenario run from beginning to end with "time-in/time-out" breaks during which students switch into the interviewing chair. The interview continues from where the previous student left off.

- **Advantages:** all the students are potential interviewers so it keeps the class focused.
- **Disadvantages:** the SP does not come out of role until the end of the teaching session (perhaps after interacting with 3-4 students) so the quality and specificity of the feedback may diminish.

### 3. ALTER-EGO

Two students interview the SP as if they were one person. One student conducts the interview while their partner shadows them, offering suggestions. Either of the students may call “Time Outs” in order to confer about the progress of the interview and check in with each other.

- **Advantages:** the student has the support of a peer. During “Time-Outs” the students may observe the patient and take their time to shape questions and responses. This technique is especially helpful for students who are shy or reticent about getting up in front of others.
- **Disadvantages:** it is a start/stop process. The flow of the interview is sacrificed while the students’ explore different avenues.

### 4. COLLECTIVE INTERVIEW

The SP is asked questions by individuals from the audience. It is almost like an interview show in which the audience is given the floor.

- **Advantages:** no student is put on the spot as the interviewer. A lot of content can be covered as the students build on each other’s questions.
- **Disadvantages:** the SP is on the hot seat. The focus is on the content. There is little development of rapport with the patient in this model due to multiple interviewers.

### 5 ONE-WAY MIRROR

A student interviews an SP alone in a room while being observed by the class behind a one-way mirror. Following the interview, feedback is given to the student with the class & teacher present.

- **Advantages:** the experience is more realistic for the student.
- **Disadvantages:** there is no safety net of “time-outs”. The experience is more intense than in a classroom setting.