Qualitative Analysis Lab #2: Focus Groups

Topic #1:
Cross-system collaboration can improve service delivery and outcomes for clients within a variety of social service systems (e.g. mental health, child welfare, criminal justice, education, etc…). How can social service systems improve cross-system collaboration?

Topic #2:
A strength-based approach emphasizes identification and use of client resources and competencies as a fundamental aspect of social work. What are the benefits and barriers of using a strength-based approach to social work?

The class will be divided into 2 groups.

1) In your group, discuss the topic and develop a set of approximately 8 questions on the topic.

2) Each group will have a total of 2 facilitators, and each will take a turn facilitating (switching half-way), and 1 note-taker. If the focus group is recorded, then a note-taker is not necessary.

3) Facilitators and note-takers will be chosen randomly by drawing names.

4) Discuss human subjects’ considerations and how to obtain informed consent for a focus group.

5) Each group will take turns and conduct the focus group in front of the class.

6) The focus group should last 20 minutes.

7) Each student will transcribe the focus group (or use their notes) and analyze the findings with a 2-3 page paper.