

Synthesizing the Outputs of Deliberative Forum

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Linking deliberation objectives to outputs

- What is the expected deliverable of the deliberation?
 - To elicit values to inform a decision-making process?
 - To provide recommendations?
 - To evaluate policy options?

How will deliberation outputs be synthesized? (1)

Two strategies:

1. Internally-driven synthesis: an explicit product of deliberation

- synthesis is incorporated into the deliberation (e.g., following small group discussions)
- requires adequate time and skilled facilitation
- increases the legitimacy of the outputs

How will deliberation outputs be synthesized? (2)

2. Externally-driven synthesis: an inferred product which follows deliberation

- allows for specialist skills to be employed to produce a comprehensive synthesis
- removes synthesis activities and control over outputs from participants
- ratification of outputs with participants can improve the legitimacy of this approach