Scenario 1: Staff Intervention
You have been called in to provide a two-session (90 minutes per session) debriefing for professional staff of a small non-profit family service agency. The agency had been providing services to a female client who recently was murdered by her husband. The agency director felt that this intervention was necessary, since her staff have been deeply affected by this tragedy. The sessions are open to all members of the staff (16 individuals). Staff will be “strongly encouraged”, but not required to attend. You will conduct these sessions over the next two weeks. When you arrive at the agency, 10 individuals are in attendance: 7 social workers (including the two who had the most involvement with the case), 2 case managers (one of whom was directly involved with the case), and 1 administrative assistant.

Scenario 2: Inner City Middle School
You are the social worker in an inner city middle school. A number of the students whom you see have been referred to you for behavior problems, typically aggressive, hostile behavior in the classroom. You decide that you would like to start a group for these children, since you realize how similar their problems are (family instability and violence, drugs, and poverty). You get permission from the principal to offer a group during one class period, for fifty minutes, for ten weeks. You recruit 9 students, 5 girls and 4 boys, ages 12-15, all of whom are less than enthusiastic about the group (but they do get out of class). The racial composition of the group is: 4 African-American students, 2 white students, 2 Hispanic students, and 1 Native-American student.

Scenario 3: Non-profit Agency for Developmentally Delayed Adults
You are the social worker in a private non-profit agency providing services to adults who are developmentally disabled and their families. The county in which the agency is located is planning to cut its contribution to your agency’s budget. This will result in a reduction of services to your clients and eliminate entirely services to their families. A number of your clients’ families have expressed concern and anger over this situation. With the permission of your agency director, you arrange a meeting of interested individuals with the goal of
organizing them to protest the budget cut. Twenty-five people, representing 16 families, attend the meeting.

**Scenario 4: Non-profit Agency for People with AIDS**

You work in a non-profit agency that provides comprehensive services to people with AIDS. You decide you would like to facilitate a group for caregivers who have recently lost their loved one to the disease, since your agency has never provided any supportive services to these individuals once their loved one has died. You call eight individuals whom you have had contact with and who you think would be interested in the group. All are, and you plan to run a 12 week (90 minutes per week) group. In the group you will have three mothers who lost adult children (two of whom were gay), one couple who lost an adult child (a drug addict), two adult siblings of drug addicts, and two gay men who lost their partners.

**Scenario 5: Short-term Admissions Inpatient Psychiatric Facility**

You work on a short-term admissions unit of an inpatient psychiatric facility. Each day you conduct a one hour group for all residents of your unit. The primary topic of conversation is members’ discharge plans, but a secondary focus is helping members resolve any disagreements which stem from their on-going interactions on the unit. Attendance is mandatory. There will be anywhere from 8 to 16 people in attendance in a given session, and typically members attend only once or twice before being discharged. There is always a mix of age, gender, and diagnosis, but the typical patient is a dually-diagnosed male in his twenties.

**Discussion Questions**

Put yourselves in the role of the worker. Tasks for the small groups include discussion of how you would plan for getting started with the group and development of a role play, with each group member having an opportunity to be the leader for at least one of the following:

**How would you explain your role?**
This is similar to the skill used in individual work with clients.

**How would you explain the role and purpose of your group?**
This also is similar to the skill of explaining purpose in individual work with clients.

**How would you handle introductions?**
A standard technique is known as the “problem swap”. With this, each member is invited to introduce her or himself and tell why she or he is there, and share with others anything else they wish to about themselves. With the problem swap, the worker has the chance to begin to point out commonalities and connect members...
to one another. Obviously, what members are asked to “swap” depends upon the purpose of the group.

What “rules” do you think would be necessary and appropriate to help the group do its work and how would you explain these to members?
The rules of the group should support its work. Typically rules deal with member contact outside of group, confidentiality, absences, leaving the group, and member interactions in the group (no interrupting, no one speaks for others, how anger can be expressed, etc.)