Discussion teaching differs from question and answer teaching primarily by the type of questions used. In discussion it is our purpose to get students to think through issues rather than verbalize memorized data and report or repeat answers. Most often discussion will center on the solution to a problem or perhaps the interpretation of a lesson. Discussion can also be thought of as an attempt to interact with others toward arriving at a solution based on thoughts and ideas expressed by learners. Basic to a good discussion is a problem which clearly defined. The problem must be limited to the scope so that it can be understood by learners and satisfactorily dealt with allotted time. When we used teaching method, discussion is not conducted for the sake of therapy but rather for the sake of pinpointing answers and solutions. As the group approaches the problems at hand, the learners seek to analyze the issues in the light of truth and clear evidence. Possible solutions could also be presented by the members of the group as they weigh and consider ideas and viewpoints. Through this process a line of reasoning or logical thought should emerge and lead to one or more solutions to the problem. These solutions are then examined to determine their validity and implications. Remember that discussion is not a debate. It is not the purpose of class to "win" an argument or to establish one way of thinking. Teacher and students are engaged in a cooperative effort to seek for truth, knowing in advance that truth and its application can be found in presenting clear evidence. Teaching by discussion utilizes one the best principles of the learning process, namely, the involvement of learners in active participation of learning experience. A good discussion will help learners express
themselves verbally, crystalize their thinking in conjunction with thinking if their peers, develop a tolerance for those with whom they may disagree. Management research teaches us that people change most rapidly and completely in proportion to the amount of interaction which they have with other people. People who tend to isolate themselves physically or mentally will become set in their ways and resist innovation in their lives or thought patterns. On the other hand, people engage in open exchange ideas with others will learn both the existence and validity of others points point of view and will more readily moderate, or perhaps even drastically change, their own ideas. Teaching by discussion is a motivational technique which encourages a student to think through concepts which has been hazy. Wrong conclusions may be corrected through influence of the group rather than the unilateral actions of a teacher. Problem-solving techniques are learned which may be applied not only within the look for knowledge, but altogether aspects of life. A discussion setting also provides an environment which may enhance group rapport and camaraderie. The humanness and concern of a teacher comes through much more clearly in discussion than it can in a lecture.

References: