Discussion Workshop Theory

Goals:
- Provide compelling content for chapter meetings.
- Educate on confrontational politics at the chapter level outside of GATs, LCAs, and Rev.

A YAL discussion workshop is a one page piece of written material along with guided questions. Participants read the material and answer the questions. Discussion workshops are used in education, leftist political organizing, and bible studies. Douglas Hyde details this in "Dedication and Leadership".

Each one pager covers a narrow topic. Most one pagers should be about either political technology or organizational technology. The workshop curriculum should be able to take an ideologically aligned freshman and get them to accept and believe the foundations of confrontational politics.

The psychological mechanics of a discussion workshop:
- The one pager is an absolute truth. It is not impartial.
- Reading the workshop introduces the ideas.
- Verbally answering a question in front of a group forces the participant to make the content make sense to themselves.
- Professing an answer in front of a group socially obligates the participant to believe in and stand by their answer.

How a discussion workshop is delivered:
- The attendees of the meeting are divided into roughly equal groups no larger than 14 and no smaller than 4. Workshop leaders must be pre selected and there must be at least one for each group. The workshop leader should know the content.
- The workshop leaders pass out the material and the participants read it on their own in silence.
- After everyone is done reading, the workshop leaders begin asking the questions.
- Workshop leaders must take care to make sure everyone is answering a sufficient number of questions, calling on participants by name if necessary.
- Workshop leaders should not insert their own thoughts unless the group is not coming to the right conclusion. If a participant is misinterpreting, they should be questioned further and other participants should be asked until the right answer is given.