Encircling a table probably establishes the best eye contact among members but it isolates the audience.

This arrangement is MOST ideal.
The audience can see each member of the board, yet board members can speak directly to one another with good eye contact.

This variation is also a close ideal.
The difference is the V-shaped table, which retains good eye contact among board members as well as between the board and audience.

Putting board members along one side of the table opens the meeting up so the audience can see and hear. However, eye contact among the members is made more difficult. Board members speak to the audience and not to one another.

POOR SEATING ARRANGEMENTS