

Visual Synectics

Audience:

K-12 Teachers, Principals

Time:

20 minutes

PROCEDURES

- 1) Place participants into groups of four to six. Distribute paper and markers.
- 2) Share an analogy with the whole group to introduce the activity.

Examples:
 - Using a lawnmower makes your lawn grow and be beautiful. Using data makes your students grow and blossom.
 - If you don't continue to refill the tank, the mower doesn't work. If you don't keep collecting data, your results won't be effective.
 - A spade is an instrument used to unearth hidden potential.
- 3) Randomly distribute a set of picture cards to each group. One picture card can be distributed to each table or a set can be distributed and each member asked to pick a card from the pile placed face down on their table.
- 4) Instruct groups to create one positive and one negative comparison. To encourage more diverse opinions, prompt participants to share, "How is data usage positive in relation to your picture card?" and "How is data usage negative in relation to your picture card?"
- 5) Ask groups to select one analogy to use for the creation of a mini-poster for display. Give the groups five to ten minutes to work.
- 6) Provide time for groups to post and share their posters. Summarize any patterns that are depicted and highlight positive attitudes, as well as beliefs and concerns that have surfaced.

Adapted from Laura Lipton and Bruce Wellman, *Delving into Data*, ©MiraVia™ LLC

COMMENTS TO FACILITATOR

Create a mini-poster to share with your group using one of the examples or your own ideas. Another option is to create an analogy together as a group at the start of the activity.

LEARNING OBJECTIVE

Participants will examine attitudes and beliefs about the role of data-driven decision making in the instructional process.

DESCRIPTION

This activity encourages creative thinking as two objects, seemingly unrelated, are compared. Through the creation of analogies, current beliefs and attitudes about data are surfaced. Once surfaced, the facilitator and group can address them.

MATERIALS AND RESOURCES

- A set of picture cards depicting everyday objects (tools, cooking equipment, different types of shoes, etc.)
- Chart paper (one sheet per group) or 11x17 sheets of copy paper
- Colored markers

VARIATIONS & EXTENSIONS

Display pictures in a PowerPoint presentation format.

Use actual objects in place of pictures. Project one image on an overhead projector for the entire group to compare.

Small groups observe projected image on large screen, and then think, compare and share their analogy with the larger audience.

Pair participants in place of small groups.

NOTES
