

Have You Thought About...?

Audience: *K-12 Teachers, Principals*

Time: *15 minutes*

PROCEDURES

- 1) Set the context for this activity by explaining that they will be learning a structure for problem solving. Distribute index cards to each group.
- 2) Request that each person write on his/her index card a current concern, issue or problem that they would like help solving. Names are recorded at the bottom of the card.
- 3) Instruct participants to pass cards clockwise. Once done, have them read the passed card and offer a brief written solution, initializing what they wrote.
- 4) Pass cards again. Repeat. Repeat once more. Have participants return cards to the originator, who now has several solutions to consider.
- 5) Provide time for individuals to read the potential solutions and ask their colleagues clarifying questions.
- 6) Remind participants that this structure gives them an opportunity to consider a problem from a variety of angles and consider as many options as possible. It is designed to encourage collaborative problem solving among group members. Highlight positives that come out of the experience.

COMMENTS TO FACILITATOR

Remind participants that this strategy is useful with students when problems arise in the classroom.

LEARNING OBJECTIVE

Participants will collaborate to address concerns and solve problems that arise in the instructional planning process.

DESCRIPTION

Use this problem solving activity as a warm-up activity or a content processing activity. It is applicable to any topic and size group. Within the context of Module IV, it serves as an opportunity to give participants time to interact with one another, gathering new insights and ideas about challenges they identified.

MATERIALS AND RESOURCES

- 4 x 6 or 5 x 7 index cards, one per person

VARIATIONS & EXTENSIONS

Group participants into teams of five or six members. After passing cards and coming up with solutions, information is shared with a larger audience or developed into a poster for display.

NOTES