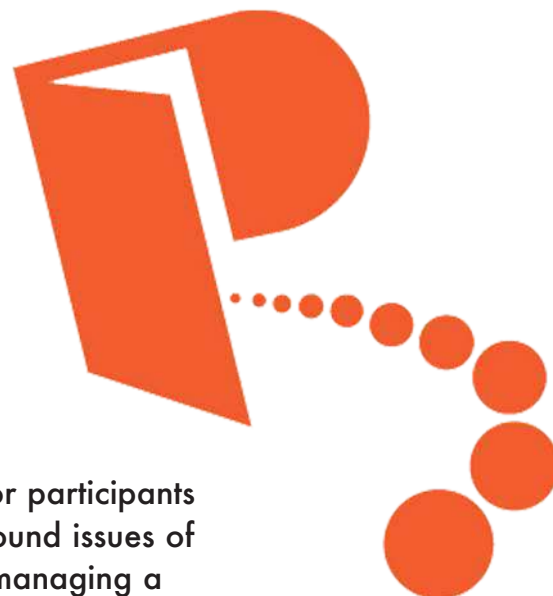


Participatory Learning Open Space



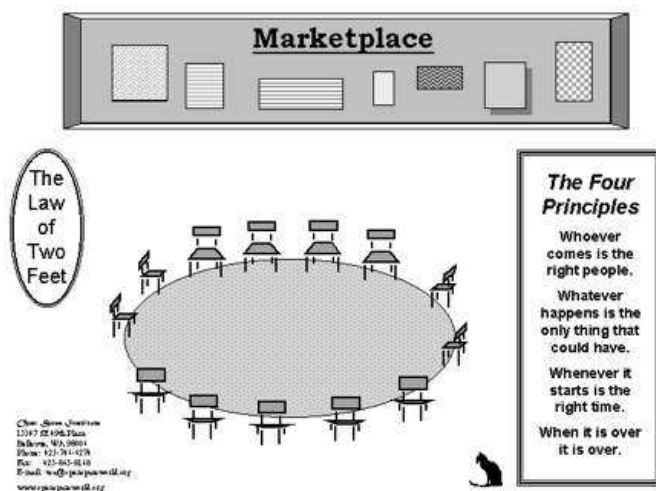
Definition

The goal of Open Space is to create time and space for participants to engage, ask questions, and/or share knowledge around issues of concern to them (such as review of an upcoming test, managing a project-based learning experience, planning a 'real life' field trip around a content issue or topic of interest).

Using Open Space in classes can result in a transformative experience for the individuals and groups involved. It is a simple and powerful way to catalyze effective working conversations and truly invite participants to thrive and be in the role of leader, knowledge sharer, and questioner.

Materials

- A BLANK WALL THAT WILL BECOME THE MARKETPLACE OF TOPICS OR QUESTIONS**
- A NEWS WALL FOR RECORDING AND POSTING THE RESULTS OF THE DISCUSSIONS**
- BREAKOUT SPACES FOR THE SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS**
- EASEL PAPER FOR WRITING SESSION TOPICS/QUESTIONS PLUS MARKERS/PENCILS/PENS**
- POSTERS OF THE PRINCIPLES, LAW OF TWO FEET, AND ROLES (OPTIONAL)**



What is Open Space good for?

Open Space is useful in almost any context, including pre-test reviews planning outings or managing of curriculum topics, collaboration and deep learning about issues and content.

PARTICIPATORY LEARNING

DEFINITION

PURPOSE

METHODS

POWERPATH

Principles

WHOEVER COMES ARE THE RIGHT PEOPLE
WHENEVER IT STARTS IS THE RIGHT TIME
WHATEVER HAPPENS IS THE ONLY THING THAT COULD HAVE
WHEN ITS OVER ITS OVER



Roles

HOST
PARTICIPANT
BUMBLE BEE
BUTTERFLY

Social Capital Skills Practiced in Open Space

LEADERSHIP

ASKING QUESTIONS

OFFERING SOMETHING OF INTEREST TO OTHERS

ACTIVE LISTENING

ASKING FOR HELP AND OFFERING HELP

DIAGRAMMING AND/OR SUMMARIZING A CONVERSATION

Flow

The group convenes in a circle and is welcomed by the host.

The host provides an overview of the process and explains how it works. The host invites people with issues of concern, questions, ideas to share or knowledge to offer to come into the circle, write the issue on a piece of paper or colored index card and announce it to the group.

The people with the issues, questions, ideas or knowledge to offer are “conveners.” The convener either identifies their own place to host a conversation or is placed in a location by the host. He/she then places their paper or card with their issue, question or knowledge to offer on the wall, hangs an easel paper under the paper/card on the wall

When several conveners are set-up, the host invites the members of the group to join the conversations they are interested in – again, participants can be a participant, bumble bee or butterfly.

Conversations convene for the balance of the session. The convener captures the important points of the conversation they lead by making a graphic organizer, mind map or web to summarize the conversation. He/She posts their summary on the wall. All of these summaries will be shared as a harvest in some way and returned shared back with the larger group.

The Law of Two Feet

If you find yourself in a situation where you are not contributing or learning, move somewhere where you can.



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