

Knowledge Continuum

Type: Generating Ideas, Checking for Understanding



What Is It?

A quick way to gauge how much people know about a topic at the beginning and / or end of a lesson / workshop.

Why Use It?

Helps participants track their learning progress
Helps trainers gauge participants' knowledge level
Gives feedback about the effectiveness of the lesson / workshop

How to Use It

1. On a piece of flipchart paper, write each core subject area of the workshop / lesson (three to five topics related to the learning outcomes for the workshop).
2. Beside each subject area, draw a horizontal line labelled with 'not much', 'a bit', 'quite a bit' and 'a lot' equally spaced along the line.
3. At the beginning of the workshop / lesson, ask participants to rate their own knowledge of (or comfort with) each area. Give them a colored dot to place where they think they are right now (one dot for each of the three to five topics). Explain that it is OK for people to have little or no knowledge at the beginning.
4. At the end of the workshop, ask the participants to rate their knowledge again so they can see if there has been any improvement.



Trainer Notes

If necessary, explain that some content will be new for some participants and will be a review for others. It is expected that those with more knowledge or experience will help those who are learning it for the first time.

Variation

Standing Continuum: make a large horizontal line like the one shown above on the floor or whiteboard (using tape or markers). Instead of asking participants to use coloured dots, ask them to stand up and move to the point on the line that matches their current knowledge level.