

Positive Minus Interesting (PMI)

Type: Generating Ideas, Organizing Ideas, Sharing Ideas, Checking for Understanding



What Is It?

A simple tool for organizing thoughts about a topic. This approach can be used to help participants explore the pros and cons of a particular topic.

Why Use It?

Encourages participants to explore an issue / option / solution from different angles

Helps participants organize their thoughts about a topic

Helps participants apply / review new information

How to Use It

1. You can use this activity at different points in a lesson:
 - At the beginning of a lesson, it can help participants reflect on what they already know.
 - At the end of a lesson, it can be used to help participants summarize what they learned.
 - After a role play or case study, it can help participants analyze whether characters made the best decisions in dealing with a situation.
2. Divide the participants into groups or tell them to work individually.
3. In their notebooks (or on a piece of flip chart paper if they are working in groups), ask the participants to make a table with three headings: positive, minus, and interesting.
4. Give the participants the topic you would like them to focus on.
5. In the positive column, ask the participants to write all the good things they know about the topic (or all the reasons why it would be a good idea).
6. In the minus column, ask the participants to write all the bad things they know about a topic (or all the reasons why it would be a bad idea).
7. In the interesting column, ask the participants to write their position (what do they think about the topic, having analyzed the positives and minuses?).

Trainer Notes

You can adjust what you ask participants to write in the “interesting” section depending on the goals of the activity and the learning outcomes you are trying to meet.

Variation

PMI Placemat: Combine the PMI approach with the placemat activity (refer to CAWST’s activity guide) by having each participant divide their portion of the placemat into three sections (positive, minus, interesting).

PMI “Think Pair Share”: After completing their PMI tables individually, ask participants to find a partner to share their ideas with.