

Word in a Hat

Type: Checking for Understanding



What Is It?

Participants review what they have learned by drawing words from a hat / box and describing what they have learned about the topic.

Why Use It?

Helps participants track their learning progress

Helps trainers gauge participants' knowledge level and identify areas of confusion

Helps participants learn from each other

How to Use It

1. Write words related to the workshop on pieces of paper or cards. The words should be key terms or ideas that were covered in the lessons / workshop. Write one word on each card and make sure you have enough for at least one card per participant.
2. Put all the cards in a hat or box.
3. Ask the participants to stand in a circle.
4. Pass the hat / box around the circle. Ask each participant to randomly take a card from the hat when it comes to them.
5. Ask participants to define the word on their card or to describe what they learned about it.
6. After each participant describes what they learned about their topic / word, provide an opportunity for other participants to add ideas. Clarify or repeat key points if needed.

Trainer Notes

Be aware that some people may not be able to read as well as others and may feel embarrassed to read aloud. Instead of passing the hat around, you could instead randomly draw a word for each participant and read it aloud.

Variation

Musical Words in a Hat: Play music while the hat is being passed around. When the music stops, the person holding the hat must pick a word and define / describe it.