

Sticky Note Grouping

Type: Generating Ideas, Organizing Ideas



What Is It?

Participants visually group and organize ideas or topics.

Why Use It?

Encourages participants to think about best ways to organize ideas or information

Helps participants consider all factors and organize them

Helps trainers see what participants know about a topic

How to Use It

1. Create small groups of 3 to 6 participants.
2. Present one piece of flipchart paper to each group with the central topic / idea that you want participants to consider written on the paper (for example, qualities of a good community health promotion program).
3. Ask each group to brainstorm all of the factors that contribute to the central idea / topic. For example, they might list all of the qualities of a good community health promotion program. Ask them to write each factor or idea on a sticky note so that they are easy to move around.
4. Ask the groups to look closely at the sticky notes they have written and talk about their similarities and differences. Ask them to sort the items into categories based on shared features.
5. Ask each group to write the name of each category on their flipchart paper and place the sticky notes that belong to that category below or around it.
6. Ask one person from each group to explain their grouping system and ideas to the rest of the participants.
7. Ask the groups to compare their ideas and categories with each other and add ideas they may have missed to their own schemes. Discuss similarities and differences in the schemes developed by the participants.

Trainer Notes

This can be done as a large group activity if you have a smaller number of participants. This allows everyone to contribute ideas and suggest ways to organize them into categories as a large group. Be sure to ask participants to write in bold markers and use large lettering on the sticky notes so that others can read them from a distance.