

Send a Problem

Type: Practicing, Checking for Understanding



What Is It?

Participants solve a problem in small groups and then pass it to the next group

Why Use It?

Helps participants apply their new knowledge or skills to solve or troubleshoot a sample problem

Helps trainers assess how well participants understand

Gives each participant an opportunity to contribute ideas

Allows participants to practice multiple problems and generates multiple solutions to each problem.

How to Use It

1. Create several sample problems for the participants to solve. For example, these could be common scenarios they may need to troubleshoot or issues they could face while working with communities.
2. Divide the participants into the same number of groups as you have problems. There should be two-five people per group.
3. Give each group a problem and a stack of blank paper. Ask them to solve the problem (or write down the steps they would use if faced with this problem) on one of the blank pieces of paper. Give them two-five minutes to do so.
4. Ask the groups to fold up their solution so that the next group cannot see it. Ask them to pass their problem to the next group, along with their folded solution.
5. Without looking at the solutions from the previous group, ask the groups to solve the new problem they have been given.
6. Continue solving and passing problems (along with folded / hidden solutions) until each group has tried several problems.
7. Pass the problems one more time so that each group has one they have not tried to solve. Ask them to open the folded solution papers and summarize the approaches or solutions that the other groups generated. Ask them to share the problem and a summary of the solutions to the rest of the class.
8. Discuss any issues or questions that arose during this exercise.

Trainer Notes

Depending on the complexity of the problems, this may be challenging for some participants. Try to group the participants so that those who are struggling to understand the concepts are paired with participants who understand and can explain it to them as they work.