

Charts on the Wall

What is the purpose of this activity?

Charts on the wall are a way to collect information from the group. They may be used to learn why participants are attending; what they want to learn or be able to do as a result of their attendance; working conditions they like in place in their learning environment and/or they may be used to help you and participants learn about each other or the area you are in.

They are a fun and energizing way to start a workshop. They have the added advantage of engaging people in the learning when they arrive. They allow you to start the formal part a few minutes after your publicized time because participants actually are working as they arrive.

When would I use this activity?

- Entering Procedure
- Opener
- Icebreaker
- Team Builder
- Energizer
- Content
- Assessment/Evaluation
- Management
- Closing Activity

How do I do this activity?

Post charts on the wall that ask questions you would like to have addressed by the participants. Questions might be:

- What do you need to do your best work/learning today?
- What do you want to know or be able to do as a result of today?
- What is one thing you want to make sure happens today?
- What hats do you wear?
- If transition were an animal what would it be?
- Where is the best place for dinner?
- What is your favorite place in Maine?
- What are you doing or did you do this?
- How are you involved in transition?

As participants come in, invite them to fill in the charts on the wall. You may also want to have a Welcome Chart inviting them to do this. As you get participants completing this ask them to encourage others in their group to complete the charts as they arrive and get settled.

Throughout the day refer to the information learned (fun and factual) from the charts. Be sure to review the outcomes requested by the participants with your outcomes and use the working conditions as a basis for the working conditions for the group.

Hints:

- ♥ Vary the information you are looking for so that some of it relates to content and some of it is fun information about the participants or the area where you are.
- ♥ Make the charts attractive and fun to write on.
- ♥ Hang markers near the charts or put them on the floor or on a shelf near the posters.
- ♥ Use dark markers that are easy to read from a distance.
- ♥ Make sure the posters are at a height that is accessible to all participants.
- ♥ Hang the charts on an angle-that way you don't have to worry about getting them straight.
- ♥ Put a sample of the kind of answer you want on each chart. Do it in a different handwriting than the question so it looks like the chart has been started.

Time to introduce: none

Preparation: make charts

Performance: depends on number of questions

Cleanup: none

Group size: any size

Material: charts, easy to read markers and masking tape

Room Set-up: any

Notes/Questions to ponder:

What are some variations of this activity?

- ☆ Put the charts on table cards and have each table complete them.
- ☆ Use charts instead of a report out from their homework.