



Worksheet 3: Learning Experiences

Introduction: Mapping our collective educational experiences into a metaphor will help us to understand how we think about learning and how it happens, allowing us to be deliberate about how we facilitate and carry out learning programs.

Task: As a group answer questions in order to draw a report on educational experiences. Use the report to create a metaphor for educational experiences overall. Share the metaphor in plenary.

Method:

Step 1: As a group answer the following questions, While answering these questions, have a group member write down the answers to report the similarities, differences and important points.

Questions:

- What are your experiences of education? Primary and high school? Post-school?
- Name one positive and one negative experience of education?
- Who was your favorite teacher like?

While each group member tells their story and answers (short answers please no more than 2mins each!) the above questions, one group member should write down key points of the answers.

Step 3:

As a group, create a metaphor for the educational journey eg:

- A pathway where the pit stops are examples of bad experiences which prevent your learning and land marks are examples of good experiences, your destination would be where you are now.
- OR**
- a tree with different branches, where each branches are experiences of growth, and where a branches are snapped off reflects negative experiences which might prevent your learning.

OR

- any other creative metaphor, a river with streams, waves or an item like a pot. Try to draw your metaphor.

This metaphor will help you describe the group's educational experiences in a presentation at plenary, be creative here and make sure your metaphor is layered with aspects explaining the groups ideas about learning and depicting what are good or bad aspects of learning.

Metaphors are a way to explain something in a new way or from different perspective. When facilitating you will often use metaphors as teaching devices.

Step 4:

Your metaphor should help you create a picture of what a bad learning experience is and what a good learning experience is.

Step 5:

Report back to plenary.

Time: 1hr 20min