

Filling Your Extension Toolkit: Warm Up Activities



The Group Brain

Adult learners bring lots of experience and knowledge to the classroom. This activity identifies the expertise and wealth of experience among the participants and encourages them to learn from each other.

The facilitator explains how we can all learn from each other and it helps to know what each others 'strengths are. The facilitator can pass out index cards or use large post it notes. Ask the participants to each list two strengths/skills/knowledge/characteristics they can contribute to the group brain. Examples are "Creative", "Detail Oriented", "Quick learner." Each one goes on a separate card. They need to put their initials on their cards. The facilitator can illustrate the process by posting two strengths he/she has.

When they're finished, they add it to the brain. Depending on time available, each person can review their strengths. Or, the facilitator can process the skills that are now in the Group Brain. The group brain activity also encourages participants to seek out the strengths of others for help.

Required Materials

- Flipcharts and markers.
- Index cards or post it notes.

Facilitation Tips

- Remember, you only have 15 minutes. So, quickly introduce the exercise and give instructions.
- Give them 5 minutes to write down and post their two strengths.
- As a group review and discuss what the Group Brain looks like. Discuss if there are any skills/knowledge that might be missing.
- Transition to the first instructor and topic.