



Dedicated to the development of capacity and capabilities in adults for change and growth.

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Order out of Chaos: A Self-organized Learning Strategy "Description"

Description:

This is an experiential exercise that requires participants to construct order and self-organized learning from about 150 words on cards provided in the middle of the room. Each card will have a word or phrase that is associated with the evolution (hint: probably a word on a card) of scientific through current organic systems thinking. Instructions will be to simply create order out of the chaos that the learners confront. Learners must have a general understanding of the thoughts on the topic of organic systems to participate.

Outcomes:

- Group demonstrate ability to self-organize through:
 - Sorting of the words into groups of meaning
 - Using tools such as an affinity tool and mind mapping to build into networks
 - Explaining the relationships between the nodes in the network and how they relate
 - Explaining how relationships influence each other
 - Explaining how scientific thought and systems thought have changed over time
 - Build strong learning of the concepts by having to construct them in a social setting

Uses:

This strategy is useful for having learners experience in depth what self-organized learning is and for helping to instill into participants the concepts of this complex and hard to grasp field.

Materials:

Flip charts, butcher paper on the wall, sticky pads, markers, cards preprinted with words, tape, and paper for writing notes.

Instructions:

In a vacant room or rooms depending on the number of participants (18 or so per group), pre-hang butcher paper on the walls, distribute materials, and arrange the room so that there is a wide open space for easy milling around and easy access to the walls. Distribute the cards preprinted with words in the middle of the floor face up with each one visible to participants. Bring in participants and provide the instructions as follows: "This is a group learning exercise designed to help you understand self-organized learning. You will have one hour to do or create what ever you want with the materials provided. There are no further instructions. You may start any time." Facilitators may provide inputs to the system particularly if they are unexpected inputs but not to tell participants what to do. They then observe.

Tips:

You may want to provide several of each card so that multiple people can explore a concept at one time. As well, cards may be used at several places at once.

Order out of Chaos: A Self-organized Learning Strategy "Process"

Process	Materials	Time
<p>Before the room is set up and learners take a break, have them fill out a quick survey (attached) to discover how comfortable they are in a couple of key areas of self-organized learning. Make sure they put their names on the surveys. Collect the surveys because surveys at the end of the exercise need to be matched with the ones collected at the beginning of the exercise.</p>	<p>Enough surveys for all of the participants.</p>	<p>2 min</p>
<p>In a vacant room or rooms depending on the number of participants (18 or so per group), pre-hang butcher paper on the walls, distribute materials, and arrange the room so that there is a wide open space for easy milling around and easy access to the walls. Distribute the cards preprinted with words in the middle of the floor face up with each one visible to participants.</p>	<p>Flip charts, butcher paper on the wall, sticky pads, markers, cards preprinted with words (four sets per group), tape, and paper for writing notes.</p>	<p>15 min set up per room</p>
<p>Provide the instructions for the exercise. "This is a group learning exercise designed to help you understand self-organized learning. You will have one hour to do or create what ever you want with the materials provided. Presentation (s) will be given with finished on the experience. There are no further instructions. You may start any time."</p>		<p>2 min intro.</p>
<p>Step out of way and watch the process unfold. Take notes on observations and act as a catalyst if needed inserting but not directing.</p>		<p>1 hour</p>
<p>Debrief as a group of experience. Presentation (s) of experience to demonstrate learning.</p>		<p>15 min</p>
<p>Complete survey and return with name on survey to facilitator.</p>	<p>Enough surveys for all of the participants.</p>	<p>5 min</p>
Total Time		<p>1 1/2 hr</p>

Order out of Chaos: A Self-organized Learning Strategy "Surveys"
Pre activity survey

Question	Score: 1 low, 10 high
1. Am I confident in my ability to design an instructional strategy based on chaos?	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
2. Am I confident in my ability to explain the concept of organic systems?	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
3. Am I confident in my ability to explain the evolution of scientific thought?	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
4. Am I confident in my ability to define self-organized learning?	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Post Activity Survey

Question	Score: 1 low, 10 high
After participating in the chaos learning experience:	
1. Am I confident in my ability to design an instructional strategy based on chaos?	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
2. Am I confident in my ability to explain the concept of organic systems?	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
3. Am I confident in my ability to explain the evolution of scientific thought?	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
4. Am I confident in my ability to define self-organized learning?	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
5. Please provide your insights into the exercise that you just experienced.	