

Small Group Work

WHAT: A technique for brainstorming and collecting many ideas, opinions, and perspectives about a topic or task.

WHY: To generate a lot of input quickly. Allows for more voices, ideas and thoughts about an important question or challenge. This technique helps you attend to the principles of inclusion, engagement, and relevance.

HOW: Divide the participants into equal small groups – a group of 6 you may have 2 x 3 and a group of 100 you may have 10 x 10. Each group is given the same task or set of questions; one person is the recorder and jots down all ideas offered. After a pre-set amount of time (i.e. 20 minutes) participants come back to the full group and share thinking; this technique can be adapted in a variety of ways.

WHEN: Anytime! It is especially helpful with medium to large groups with limited time.

VIRTUAL APPLICATION: *Facilitator sets up and assigns participants to breakout rooms with the same set of questions or data; groups are invited to collect all their thinking in a document within a set time then come back and hear a few synthesizing comments from each group.*

