



thinking space

COLLABORATIVE CREATIVITY

WHAT IS IT?

Many opportunities for learners to be creative involve working independently, but group work is fertile ground for creative activity.

The new ideas, perspectives and values of a group can push individuals to think deeply and communicate more effectively. This tool explores several ways to explore ideas using the creative output of learners working together.

RECIPE

- **No. of participants:** 5 – 30 (maximum 5 per subgroup)
- **Age of participants:** 7+
- **Preparation time:** 5 - 20 minutes
- **Delivery time:** 10 minutes – 1 hour
- **Materials:** Will depend on the activity

HOW DOES IT WORK?

For each activity, the communication within the group is through the media; participants should take part in the activity without speaking. A reflection after the activity provides the opportunity to discuss what they've made.

Collaborative Poetry Writing

Each member of the group takes it in turn to write one line of a poem entitled: 'Imprisonment' (or whatever concept or theme you're exploring.) Once they have written a draft they can take it in turns to edit the poem. When the activity is over, they should share their edited version with the rest of the group.

Collaborative Sculpture

Each member of the group adds to a sculpture. The sculpture could be a response to an issue, emotion or concept you'd like them to explore. All participants can work on the sculpture simultaneously. They might want to use an immediate medium like rubbish, empty boxes, Playdough or Lego. Present the finished sculpture at the end of the activity and invite the wider group to ask the sculptors questions or comment on the group's theme.

HOW DOES IT WORK? (cont.)

Collaborative Drawing

In pairs, students can try drawing using the same pen. Start them off with simple shapes such as 'house' or 'flower'. Later the pairs can move on to more challenging concepts like 'love' or 'family'. Alternatively this activity can involve a long role of wallpaper and a whole class drawing at the same time around the same theme.

Collaborative Tableaux

Build a tableaux around a question or concept. One performer assumes a position at a time while the other performers try to make sense of the scene as it builds, adding themselves to the picture in a pose that makes sense. Perform the finished tableaux to the rest of the group and invite them to comment on what it depicts and what they think it represents. (See 'Dramatic Devices' Tool)

Collaborative Music-Making

Using rhythm to explore an emotion, an event or an issue, begin with one percussionist and invite members of the group to improvise accompaniment, layering the sounds until everyone is making a contribution. Perform the final piece and invite the wider group to identify the central theme.

TIPS

- Try providing each group with the same brief but a different medium, or the same medium but a different brief.
- As the facilitator try and give as little guidance to their activity as possible. After the concept / issue / question has been explored everyone can discuss as a group how well they think it has been represented.

FIND OUT MORE

- See 'Concept Building' Tool
- See 'Dramatic Devices' Tool

YOUR NOTES...

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