

Innovative Solutions

Category of Competencies: Effecting Positive Change Skills

Description:

A brainstorming exercise to encourage participants to generate and present creative solutions to a common problem.

Activity Categories:

Group, In-person (or Online), Easy to Prepare, One-off Session, Little or No Equipment Needed

Main Competencies Involved:

Creativity, Flexibility, Initiative, Innovation

Other Competencies (Different Category):

Group effectiveness

Resources Needed and Practical Considerations:

Sheets of paper, whiteboard, or digital collaboration tools (e.g., Google Jamboard or virtual whiteboard), Markers or digital note-taking tools, Timer

Estimated Time:

30 minutes

Description of Activity:

Step 1: Introduce the activity by explaining that participants will be brainstorming creative solutions to a specified problem.

Step 2: Present a common, relatable problem (see list below for examples). Make sure the problem is relevant and broad enough to allow multiple creative solutions.

Step 3: Divide participants into small groups, or have them brainstorm individually. Give each group/participant 15 minutes to brainstorm as many innovative solutions as possible. Encourage them to use visual aids, sketches, or lists to organize their ideas.

Step 4: Each group/participant presents their most unique or promising ideas to the larger group. Encourage concise presentations to focus on the innovation and feasibility of each idea.



Step 5: Encourage the larger group to provide constructive feedback on each idea, focusing on creativity, originality, and potential impact. Ask participants to reflect on their process and what enabled them to think creatively during the activity.

Example problems

How can we make public spaces (like parks) more welcoming for young people?

How can young people stay motivated while looking for job opportunities?

What can be done to make online learning more engaging and accessible?

How can young people find more affordable ways to stay active and healthy?

What strategies could help build a sense of community in local neighbourhoods?

How can young people access reliable information on current events?

How can we create more peer support networks for young people facing challenges?

How can we make transportation more accessible and affordable?

How can we reduce stigma around asking for help or seeking support?

What could encourage young people to participate more in community activities?

