

Table Top Graffiti

Purpose:

This activity develops skill in organizing, summarizing, and analyzing information.

Life Skills Developed:

Planning/Organizing
Decision Making
Critical Thinking
Problem Solving

Social Science Skills Developed:

Data Organization
Data Analysis- Content Analysis
Data Interpretation

Materials:

- 3x3 post-it, or other sticky note pads. Several packs in four different colors
- Writing instruments for each person
- Variety of colored markers
- Four flip chart pages, with the following questions list on them:
(1 question to a page)
 1. What is the best thing about being a teen today?
 2. What is the biggest challenge about being a teen today?
 3. What is the best thing about living in your community?
 4. What is the biggest challenge about living in your community?

Room Set Up:

Tables and chairs with room for four groups of participants to gather around their own table.

Time: 40 Minutes

Procedure:

Part One

- Have participants divide into four groups around four tables.
- Place one of the flip chart papers, stacks of post-it note (a different color for each table), and writing instruments on each table.
- Instruct each person to consider the question written on the flip chart paper. Ask each person to write down as many “quick” responses to the question that they can think of- one response to a post-it note, and put the post-it on the flip chart paper. Be sure to emphasize the “brainstorming” nature of this activity, and that they should not ponder their answers too long, or discuss them with other participants. The goal is to generate lots of quick ideas... the more the better!

Procedures cont.

- Set a timer for 2 minutes and let each group generate as many responses as they can. At the end of two minutes, have each group pass their flip chart paper to the next table, and then begin another 2 minute segment of responding to the question.
- Rotate the flip chart paper until each group has responded to each question.
- Once everyone has responded to each question, stop and explain the next part of the activity.

Part Two

- Rotate the flip chart papers one last time, so that each group has their original question.
- Ask each group to organize the information on all the post-it notes into common themes.
- Using the markers, ask each group to prepare a poster that summarizes their analysis of the information presented on the post-it notes. Encourage the groups to be creative in their poster presentation, and let them know they can use the back side of the flip chart paper if they want to.
- Invite each group to present their findings from the analysis they did.

Discussion Questions

1. What things did you learn while doing this activity?
2. What was the most challenging thing about summarizing information?
3. How did you do about analyzing the information and deciding on which themes to highlight? How will this skill be helpful when you gather information about your community?