Connect The Dots!

This is an exercise to help individuals and teams make their online collaboration as effective and valuable as their face-to-face interactions. It guides participants in talking about articulating their understanding of a shared topic or situation in various ways and to see the differences in perceptions. This exercise can be done with any number of people.

**Step 1**
Each participant receives a pre-prepared package of supportive material.

**Step 2**
Each participant fills in the Questionnaire. The last question is about the theme of your workshop.

**Step 3**
Each participant notes down 5 keywords on 5 cards (one per card) that describes their perspective on the topic of the workshop.

**Step 4**
Each participant engages in 1-to-1 conversations with others. The facilitator keeps time: spend about 5 min in conversation and 1 min in writing down keywords about the conversation on the cards. The participant will collect a maximum 5 cards per conversation.

**Step 5**
Each participant takes their first 5 cards and elaborates on the connection why they belong together, using the template “My Profile”. LEARNING: you rephrase your perspective on the topic, after the interaction with others

**Step 6**
Each participant groups the cards into baskets (Which topics belong together?) and then elaborates on their baskets, using the template “My baskets” and “My Journal Post”.

**Step 7**
Group discussion on the central theme and debriefing of working format, to discuss networked knowledge building online and offline.

---

For the facilitator

Choose a topic for the workshop and determine how many of 1-to-1 conversations you will have available.

Prepare the following set of materials for each participant.

- a set of cards to write keywords on, at least 5 cards per 1-to-1 conversation planned, as well as 5 cards for the participant. Leave enough space for the participant to write their partner's name.
- some supporting templates: entitled “Questionnaire”, “My Profile”, “My Baskets”, “My Blog Post”. You need to customize this material to your theme.

---

Contact

Kamakshi Rajagopal
kamakshirajagopal.wordpress.com
Open Universiteit, Netherlands