Activity Ideas

We include activities in our learning experiences to invite participants to apply what we teach them, to find exceptions or "snags," and to access the peer group. Through activities, we receive feedback that informs us to add information or correct for wrong knowledge or practice. We create powerful learning experiences when we are intentional about how we use activities to support our learning objectives.

Here are some activities ideas:

Body voting: Participants engage in a physical way, like thumbs up/down, hand-raising, standing up, or making a face

Case study: A scenario which requires participants to apply knowledge or skills

Critical incidents: A short scenario

Demonstrations: A step-by-step display of a skill or process

Discussion: Full or small group conversation about information presented

Exercises: Opportunities to apply a skill or practice a concept

Fishbowl: Small group of people engage in a discussion while a second group of people observe, listen, and provide feedback

Games: A structured form of play with an educational purpose

Jigsaw: Small groups of people engage in an activity or learn a topic. They become "expert" in that topic. The groups are then reassigned to a second group of people, in which they share their expertise about the first topic. Individuals etch learning deeper into their memory by having to explain it and being asked about it.

Mind map: A diagram representing ideas, concepts, or items and how they are linked

Pair-squared: Two people (a pair) talk about a topic. Two pairs (four people) are then combined to share elements of their first discussion, adding new ideas together

Peer round tables: Small groups of people do an activity or have a discussion

Role play: Participants act out a scenario relevant to the lesson. They take on different personas to practice an idea

Simulation: An imitation of a situation or process

Structured note taking: Graphic organizer designed to help participants understand and remember information

Quiz: a short test to gauge learning