

Assumptions Wall

Information Processing: Exploring and Discovering

PROCESS

- Individuals list assumptions about a topic.
- Have participants choose one that most informs their behavior.
- Participants write their choice on sentence strip in 8–12 words.
- Post assumptions on the wall.
- Facilitator models inquiry (approachable voice, plurals, invitational stems, and positive presuppositions) and inquiry categories (importance, under what conditions, source, data, beliefs, values). Example: “I’m curious about that assumption. Whose is it? Help me to understand what are some reasons you value that highly?”
- Individuals inquire about posted assumptions in round-robin fashion.

ALTERNATIVES

- The group lists assumptions related to a topic. One to three assumptions are selected. The group makes inquiries about these assumptions. The group then identifies implications of the selected assumptions.

TIPS

- Use groups of 4–12.
- Caution the group not to “beat to death” the first assumption explored.
- Model approachable voice.
- Intervene and correct whenever the inquiry begins to sound like interrogation and disbelief.

NOTES AND APPLICATIONS
