

Pluses and Wishes

Information Processing: Organizing and Integrating

PROCESS

- Inform the group that you will be requesting members to name pluses (things they appreciated or things that supported their learning) and wishes (things they wish the group had done more of, less of, or differently).
- Use two to four flip charts, depending on the size of the group. Each chart is displayed as a T-chart, with pluses at the top left and wishes at the top right
- Recruit recorders.
- Request pluses first. As each plus is named, paraphrase and direct it to the recorders in turn.
- Ask for wishes and repeat the patterns.
- Members orally report pluses—what they valued about content or processes—while a recorder charts the ideas.
- Next, report wishes—what they wish had been done more, less, or differently, or wishes for the next session.

cont.

ALTERNATIVES

- Gots and Wants is another strategy that serves this purpose.
- With a small group, up to 10 or so people, you can serve as both facilitator and recorder.
- Use multiple recorders to speed the charting process.

TIPS

- After initial contributions, always ask “What else?” rather than “Is there anything else?” to elicit further comments.
- State as “What are some plusses . . . ,” not “Are there any pluses”?
- After the session, organize each category into subtopics and report to the group at the next session how its ideas will inform this session.
- Keep your facial and verbal responses neutral.

NOTES AND APPLICATIONS
