**Drawn' Together: A brief intro to Visual Practices for Teaching & Learning**

Oct 20, 2015 at the Justice Institute of B.C. with Tracy Kelly <http://tracykelly.net>

# Activities

## Icebreaker: Visual Interviews

modified from: <https://johnleskodotbiz.wordpress.com/2011/06/26/a-better-icebreaker/>

These questions seem to work well (but of course, modify to suit your needs & keep experimenting).

* What is your favourite colour? (draw something that is typically that colour)
* How are you “creative”? (i.e., music, painting, cooking, drawing, fashion, feng shui, writing, taking photos, dancing, etc.)
* What draws you to this course/field/topic/cause?
* What skills/talent/perspective do you bring to this session/class/topic?
* What do you hope to get out of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (this day, session, class, course...whatever you are doing)

### Tips:

* Try 4 questions, with one that asks participants what they want/need out of the learning experience before them. Also, consider one that asks what they bring to it.
* In the report out, ask participants ONLY report out on the question that asks what folks want to get out of the session/class/day. Connect their responses to your plan/agenda (i.e., show alignment between their needs and your plan, and adjust where possible to meet needs). Key point: don’t let people report out everything – it takes too long, it’s not the point, and people can SEE what the answers were.

## Drawing Together

from Liberating Structures:<http://www.liberatingstructures.com/20-drawing-together/>

This activity asks us to use 5 symbols and no words to “tell the story of….”.  It’s a nice way to share with each other and discover similarities. I would consider it early in just about any course/program.  Lots of possibilities for customizing for your context - here are a few:

* Tell the story of what brought you to this \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  (program, degree, course, field, decision to return to school)
* Tell the story of your \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(professional life, career, growth as an artist, experience as a parent, journey through the health care system, etc.)

## Draw Toast

<http://www.drawtoast.com/index.html#.ViRBfGTBzRY> - This is a good kickoff activity for process/Systems Thinking

## Concept Maps as Prior Learning Assessment

In “How Learning Works: 7 Research-based Principles for Better Teaching”, the authors argue that a big problem we have as educators is around students’ prior learning (either it’s lacking, incorrect, incomplete, or not being properly activated).  One strategy they recommend is having students construct concept maps about “...an entire disciplinary domain (e.g., social psychology), a particular concept (e.g., Newton’s third law), or a question (e.g., ‘what are the ethical issues with stem cell research?’)”. This could be a great individual or group/class activity, with loads of creative possibilities for the final product (Digital? Huge paper on the wall? Sticky notes? Pipe cleaners? String? Lego? Tinker Toys? Let the students decide?).

# A Few Great Resources & References

## Books/Websites

* The Graphic Facilitator's Guide: how to use your listening, thinking and drawing skills to make meaning by Brandy Agerbeck
* Gamestorming: A Playbook for Innovators, Rulebreakers, and Changemakers by Dave Gray, Sunni Brown, James Macanufo.  Also check out their website - *lots of activity ideas are there for free!*: <http://gamestorming.com/>
* The Surprising Power of Liberating Structures <http://www.liberatingstructures.com/> - this is my absolute favourite go-to book for facilitation
* Doodlers Unite! TED Talk with Sunni Brown <https://www.ted.com/talks/sunni_brown?language=en>

## Tools & Templates

* Templates for Graphic Processes: <http://grovetools-inc.com/collections/visual-planning-templates>
* Love awesome pens? Check these out - Neuland:  <http://ca.neuland.com/>
* Visual Explorer: <http://www.leadingeffectively.com/leadership-explorer/category/visualexplorer/> - an extremely flexible set of powerful images you can use in tons of activities.

## Upcoming Learning Opportunities…

* Dec. 4, 2015 (1 day) in Victoria: *Introduction to Graphic Recording* with Tracy Kelly <http://secure.royalroads.ca/cscourses/introduction-to-graphic-recording-2-3-4>
	+ If you are interested in Graphic Recording and/or want to spend more time on basic drawing skills, that’s what this day is about
* Feb. 17 – 19, 2016 (2.5 day) *Liberating Structures* with Keith McCandless at UBC Vancouver <http://proflearn.bccampus.ca/workshops/liberating-structures/>
	+ This is an awesome and rare opportunity for anyone interested in upping their facilitation skills!