

plott.

Note for Facilitators

What is Plott?

Plott is a workshop activity that helps participants open up their minds to new information and perspectives.

When to use it?

Plott can be used in any meeting or workshop where a group of people with diverse knowledge or views need to listen to each other and/or work together to solve a problem or make a decision. Plott was designed with the deliberative process in mind and is best used early in an engagement process.

Why use it?

Ever dealt with participants with entrenched views who are unwilling to consider new information or listen to the views of others? Ever facilitated a meeting or workshop where no progress is made because participants aren't open to changing their position on a topic?

Well, Plott has been developed to ease your pain!

Plott will help prime your participants for genuine deliberation and consensus-building. By the end of the exercise, participants will have considered new information, discussed differing perspectives and re-evaluated their position multiple times on a fictional scenario. By assisting them to this stage and propagating an accepting environment - individuals can achieve the flexible mindset necessary for reaching consensus

Instructions

You will need:



30 Plott fact cards
(75×100mm)



5 Plott spectrum
cards (A4)

🕒 15 min

👥 2-30
participants

Instructions:

1. Before you start, place the Plott spectrum equi-distant in a straight line on a wall participants can stand against.
2. Distribute one card to each participant, ensuring you've distributed at least one card of each transport mode/colour.
3. **Introduce the exercise and the scenario:** *"We are going to do a short 10min activity on analysing information and different viewpoints. Imagine it is the year 2060 and the Government is investing in a new primary mode of public transport. Their options: 1. Flying jetpacks, 2. High-speed hoverboards and 3. Underground suction tubes. After a lengthy review process, they have decided to invest in the suction tubes."*
4. **Prompt the group:** *"In your hand, you hold a fact about one of the three modes of transport that the Government considered. Based on that piece of information and that piece only, you must decide how you feel about the final decision. Once you've decided, stand in front of the sign that best reflects your opinion."*
5. **Once the group has plotted themselves on the scale:** Distribute another card to all participants (skip if there are more than 15 participants). Also ask them to find someone standing at a different spot on the Spectrum to discuss each other's facts. Once that's done, ask them to reposition themselves along the Spectrum based on this additional information.
6. **Repeat steps 4 and 5:** Each time, allow the participants to reposition themselves along the Spectrum. Ideally, allow for four rounds.
7. **After the final round:** Assemble the group for a 5min discussion about the exercise, using the following questions as prompts.

Post Activity

Discussion questions:

- By a show of hands, how many people changed their mind once... twice... three times... four times?
 - Why did/didn't you change your mind?
 - Did any existing biases change the way you viewed the facts?
- How did it feel when you were given more cards and had more discussions?
 - Did your confidence in your decision change over time? Why/why not?
 - What questions would you have liked to ask to feel more confident in your stance?
- What lessons can we take away from this activity? E.g.
 - It's okay to change your mind when new information comes to light
 - You make better decisions when you have considered more information/ views
 - It's good to ask questions and seek out additional information
 - Beware of your own biases

After the activity:

Following the activity - during the remainder of the meeting or workshop - you may find it useful to refer back to the Plott activity as a metaphor. For example:

- Do you have enough 'cards' to form a strong view on this?
- Who might have some different 'cards' for you to consider?
- Are you properly considering the new 'cards' that have been presented?
- Are you giving yourself permission to change your position on the 'spectrum'?

**Got a question or suggestion?
Let us know!**

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