

Closing Activity: Consulting Time



Time Required: 50 minutes



Goal

- To have participants work together to help each other develop ideas and approaches to address their biggest challenges in the training area.



Overview

In this activity, the class is divided into two teams: clients and consultants. The client quickly explains their situation to the consultant, and the consultant suggests action. They then shift partners and continue giving and getting feedback until all consultants have been seen by each client. Then roles reverse and the process begins again.



Instructions

Distribute 3x5 cards to all participants and have each person record a specific challenge they face that they would like advice on.

Arrange two rows of chairs in the room, enough for all participants, with A's on one side and B's on the other, teams facing each other. Chairs should be close enough to allow conversation between the facing chairs, and a few feet between each chair in a given row. Divide the group into two sides (A and B). Instruct all A's to sit on one side and B's on the other. If you have an odd number of people, you or another co-trainer will have to participate in the activity. Ensure that each person has a pen or pencil and their 3x5 card.

Tell the group that they will be playing the roles of clients and consultants. They will be sharing with each other the wealth of their experience. Instruct A's that they will be the clients first, and B's will be the consultants. They will have 1 minute to quickly explain their challenge and get ideas from their consultant. After 1 minute, you will blow a horn or buzzer to alert them that they should switch partners. When they switch, all A's should move down one chair while the B's stay in the same spot. Suggest that they take notes about the advice they get.

Begin round 1. Blow the whistle every 60 seconds and have them switch partners. Continue until the client has met with each consultant. Then switch roles (A's become the consultants) and repeat the process.



Handouts

- None



Debrief

Debrief by asking questions like these:

- What are some ideas you gained?
- How would you rate the ideas you gained?
- When you were the client, did you change the way you described your challenge as you moved down the line and how?
- Did you get a different perspective on your challenge?
- What did you learn about being a consultant in this activity?
- What has this activity told you about what you learned in this training?