

Tape Recording

Processing Activity

Props: A roll of masking tape and a sharpie (marker).

Objective: To stimulate an awareness within a group of how participants communicate by creating a written record of snippets and comments made during an initiative.

Set-up: Choose an initiative that involves a fair amount of interaction and communication between participants. The activity should be challenging (*Helium Hoop/Stick*) and/or involve a high level of intensity related to sharing ideas or opinions (*Not a Knot*).

Suggested Guidelines:

1. Introduce an appropriately challenging initiative to the group. It's important that the activity involve a high level of interaction between participants.
2. Once the activity begins, stand at a distance from the group. Be sure you can clearly hear what is happening but are far enough away to not draw attention. It's important not to bring too much attention to the recording process as it can be distracting and potentially influence participant behavior.
3. Listen carefully to the group. As participants begin working on the initiative record their comments on the roll of masking tape using the marker. Once a comment is recorded, tear off the section of tape and tape it to a wall, a piece of flip chart paper, or yourself.
4. Capture a variety of comments including, questions, discoveries and even those under the breath comments.
5. Once the initiative is complete explain that you have "Tape Recorded" the activity and show them all the comments and invite them to read through what has been captured.

Note: In order to be effective, record as much as possible. You should be writing nonstop throughout the activity.

Questions:

1. As you read through these snippets, does anything stand out?
2. What does this tell us about how we speak to each other?
3. Is this how you think you sound when you work together?
4. Are there things we want to change (or celebrate) about our communication?
5. Is our communication productive, helpful, or positive?
6. Did your communication (voice, tone, vocabulary) change during the activity? When and what do you think caused these changes?
7. What about how we speak to each other should be changed or worked on?

Variations:

Ask one or two students to do the recording during the activity.