

3. CONNECTING THE DOTS

When writing a self-assessment days or weeks after a learning experience, the memory of that experience will have most certainly faded. Using the groups' memory can be useful to recall important elements of that experience. This exercise is designed to help participants assist each other in remembering details of their learning path that can be useful when they write their self-assessments.



GROUP SIZE

Three to twelve



DURATION

approx. 40 minutes
(depending on group size)

RESOURCES & PREPARATION (SPACE, MATERIAL, EQUIPMENT, PEOPLE)

- Large poster or roll of paper
- Pens
- Highlighters



OBJECTIVES

- To allow participants to use each other's words and memories to make sense of a specific learning experience (e.g., a youth exchange).

DESCRIPTION OF THE METHOD STEP BY STEP



- Prepare a large empty poster for the group and give one pen to each participant. The pens should all be of different colours.
- Ask participants to write keywords somewhere on the poster, in rounds as described below. Allow two to four minutes per round.
- During the 1st round, ask them to write down words relating to topics they learned about in that specific learning experience (e.g., teamwork, tolerance, creativity...).
- During the 2nd round, ask them to write down words about things they have experienced, such as activities, or things they tried (e.g., cooking together, horseriding, playing games...).
- During the 3rd round, ask them to write down words about things they actually learned (working in a multicultural team, being patient, speaking better English...). Note: You can reduce or increase the number of rounds to cover, e.g., "things that changed in you", "things you missed", etc. Facilitate the process by helping participants remember different moments in the process (preparation sessions before departure, during the activities, during the breaks, etc.).
- After the last round, ask participants to connect different words (theirs or others') on the poster, creating a maze or drawing a line with their own highlighters. Each participant should select any words on the poster that they feel are relevant to their learning path, even if those words were written by someone else. They can connect them in any way they want, as long as they make sense to them.
- Afterwards, ask each participant to use the words they connected in a written text that should be written on a separate piece of paper. Allow 15 to 20 minutes for this step.
- Optionally, you can ask young people to read their texts out loud, or to use the poster as inspiration for creating their Youthpass.

step 1

step 2

step 3

step 4

step 5

step 6

step 7

step 8



DEBRIEFING QUESTIONS

- How did it feel recalling the memories from your learning experience?
- Did it help to use other people's words?
- Looking at your text now, how do you feel about your learning experience?
- What can you use from this text for your Youthpass?

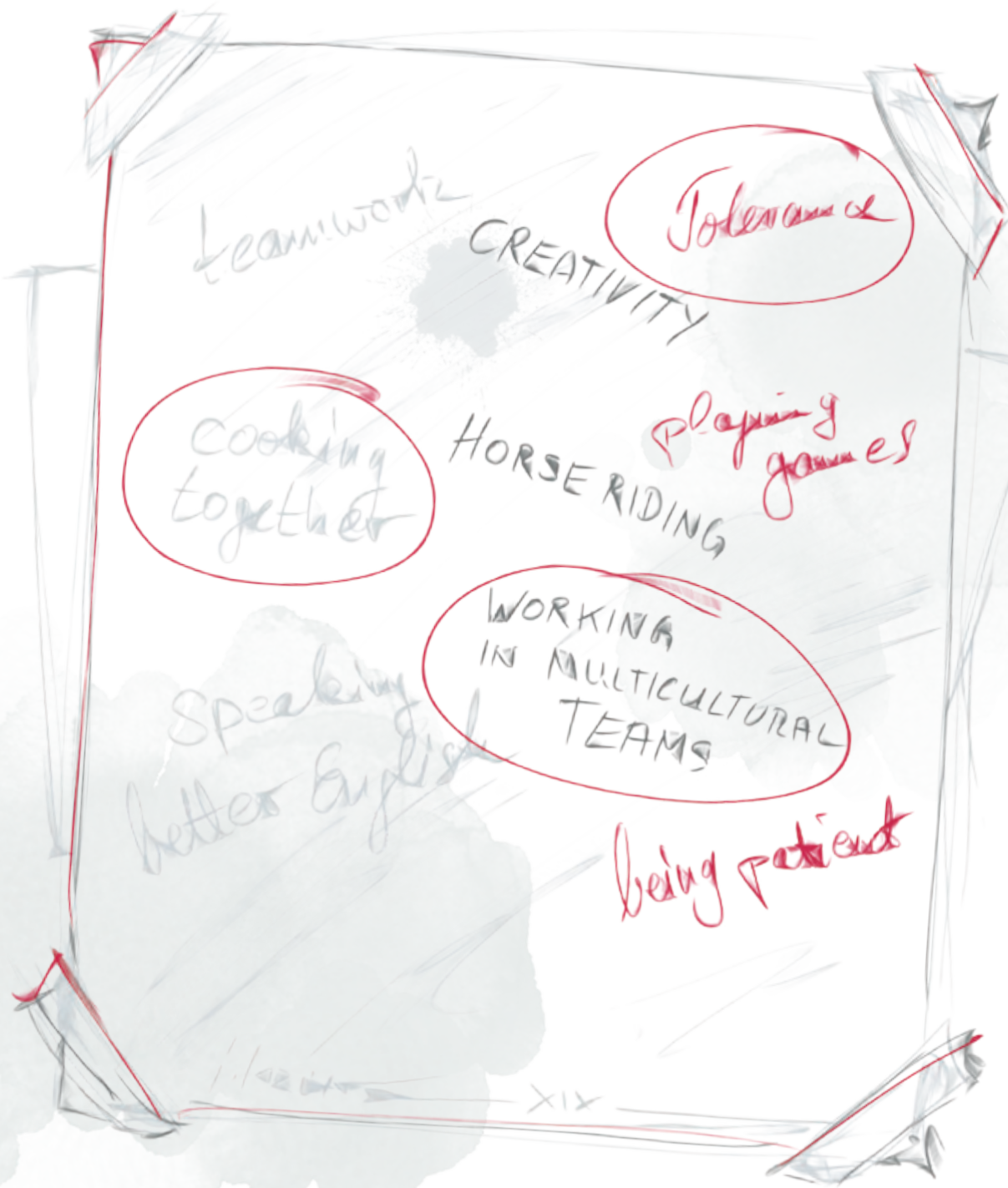


THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND

If participants are having trouble writing, instead of asking them to write words that relate to their learning experience, you can provide a pile of cards with keywords on them and ask them to either choose from them or suggest new cards. In the end, instead of each participant writing their own text, you could also ask them to speak about the cards they found relevant while you take notes on their behalf. Once they feel more confident about their conclusions, help them to write their text.

CREATED BY

Anita Silva



Teamwork

Tolerance

CREATIVITY

Cooking together

HORSE RIDING

playing games

WORKING IN MULTICULTURAL TEAMS

Speaking better English

being patient

XIX