

Wisdom Circles

LOCAL LEARNING LAB Lab Activities

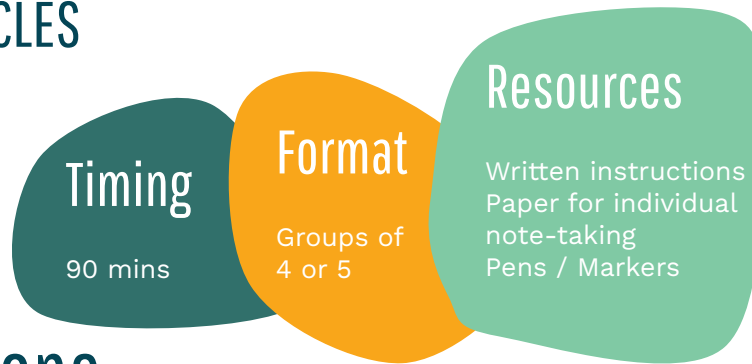
Purpose

Wisdom circles give people a chance to test their thinking with peers and gather wisdom, whether for pathways forward, resources, support, decisions, etc.

Goals and Outcomes

- Each person has a chance to take stock of what they have taken away from the Lab so far
- Each person gets to seek input on ideas and questions of their choosing

WISDOM CIRCLES



Instructions

Assumptions

Wisdom Circles are suited for Labs focused on building Initiative Capacity, and enabling people with ideas, projects or enterprises to identify and take specific steps forward. This activity is best after participants have absorbed a number of new ideas and possibilities, and need time to incorporate those ideas with the questions and ideas they are already holding.

Step 1: Time to reflect [20 mins]

Give participants time to reflect and consider the following questions:

- What have they learned or heard in the Lab that may benefit?
- How would you quickly describe what you're working on? (eg idea, project, enterprise, etc)
- What are you hoping to achieve? What brought you here?
- Are you looking for pathways forward, funding, resources, support, ideas, connections, etc?
- Are there any decisions, ideas, or thinking you'd like to test?
- Identify what you will discuss with others

Step 2: First sharer [6 min] First person sharing unpacks their idea, project etc and identifies what they would like to discuss.

Step 3: Discussion [14 min] Group: What comes to mind as you listen? Do you have any ideas, resources or pathways you could suggest? What wisdom or encouragement might you offer?

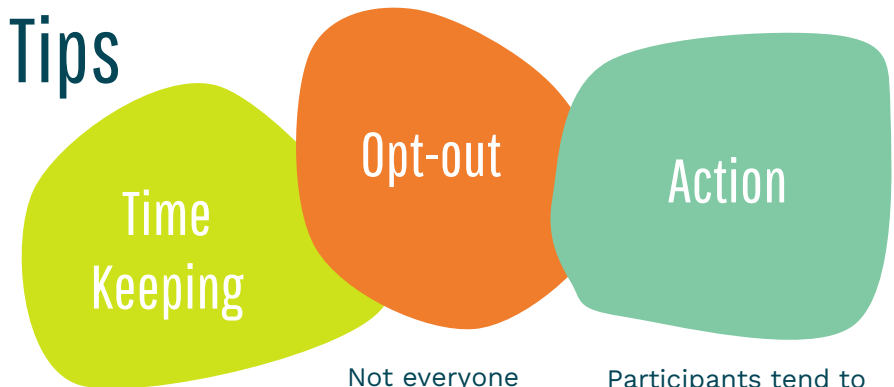
Step 4: Repeat steps 2 and 3 until all sharers have had a turn. [20 mins each]

Step 5: Debrief [10 mins] Ask if anyone would like to share anything that came from the discussion, eg insights, resources, or progress etc. Ask for any reflections on the activity.

Go Further

- **Use the 'Gallery Templates' as a starting point**
 - The Gallery Templates are useful for capturing the types of information that will support a productive Wisdom Circle conversation.

Tips



Ask someone in each group to keep track of the time.

Give occasional reminders

Not everyone will have brought something to share, or will feel comfortable with the activity. Let people know it's ok to opt out.

Participants tend to express more satisfaction with Labs when they come away with clear actions. Prompt the groups to encourage the "sharers" to identify some actions they can take.