

WAVE ANALYSIS

Overview

A participatory process to help a group analyse practices relevant to their situation.

Purpose

- Gathering data
- Communication
- Analytic thinking
- Reflection

Supplies

- Sticky notes x 4 colours, wall space, work sheets (optional)

Number of people

2 - 40

Time required

20 - 60 minutes

Activity Flow

1. Introduction

- Identify the topic to be explored
- Explain the wave metaphor – draw a wave and introduce the dynamic nature of a wave metaphor
 - On the crest of the wave is **Established Norms** (in currency, standard operating procedures)
 - Where the wave is forming is **Emerging Trends** (experimental, gaining momentum)
 - Where the wave breaks on the shore is **Dying Practices** (no longer relevant, outdated)
 - Way out on the horizon is **New Edges** (radical, new horizon)
- Introduce a different coloured sticky note for each category
- Hand out about 10 of each colour to each individual/group

2. Brainstorm

- Ask participants, either individually or in small groups, to generate ideas about their own work practices and where they fit in the 'wave'

3. Gather the data

- Post the data on the wall and review – look for similarities and differences
- Explore how one person's dying practice might be another's emerging trend

4. Reflect and Next Steps

- Review what the information is telling us
- Discuss how it can be used