

Shakin' the classroom

Spreading alternative knowledge sharing methods

Please briefly explain the knowledge sharing method/approach/tool.

What are the main processes? What are the expected outcomes? In what ways does that method bring change or represent an alternative to existing or dominant knowledge sharing settings and methods?

The method consists in interactive/collaborative reading of multiple texts on an issue/question/topic by several users. All participants first read some (or all) of the proposed texts – I think it could also be a mix of interviews, theoretical texts, poems, texts written by participants – and can choose one text part that speaks to them. One first person starts reading its part out loud and the others interact with 3 different options : “Repeat, Stop, Replace”. If someone says “repeat” the reading person can choose to repeat the whole paragraph, sentence or one word. “Stop” is inducing a silence/short time for all to think about what was just read. “replace” means that another person starts reading another text – it can be the person that said “replace” or a third person. There is no fixed length of text contributions and no order of passage. At the end of the experience participants can collectively discuss what feelings, sensations, questions or comments the process has fostered.

Expected outcomes are opening up of sources for reflecting or discussing a certain issue/topic, as well as intuitive and collaborative sharing of knowledge. Also, this process can develop links between very diverse concepts.

This process can be an alternative to : individual reading of a text corpus or a single text. / reading and explaining text only by a teacher. / collective reading of a single text with a structure (e.g order of passage, delimitation of read parts). /

If possible, please briefly explain the context in which the method has been developed.

Who were the main actors? What were the main reasons/motivations/inspirations behind the creation? Which previous developments have influenced it? If relevant, in what ways did the method/tool develop or change over time or in different locations/contextes?

In your opinion, what kind of settings and participants is the method best suited for?

E.g. age, educational level, cultural and professional background, etc.

This method is, in my opinion, well suited for relatively small groups at university (maybe younger could also work). The participants should be able to see and hear all other participants and be comfortable or used to reading aloud. This method can be adapted to different educational levels (complexity of material), cultural and professional backgrounds, as well as interests of the group.

Are there any limitations?

Are there any requirements or limits in terms of location, number/profile of participants, tools and devices, time constraints and other? Are there certain skills, sensitivities or relations that need to be developed or assumed for the method to be successfully applied? Are there any contexts for which this method is not best suited?

There are not much limitations as this method can work with different types of groups and participants. All participants should feel comfortable/be prepared to reading aloud and (at best) speak/understand the languages of the text(s). This method isn't suited for very big groups and setting like conferences – each participant should be able to see and hear the other participants.

What are your experiences with the method?

In case you have tested or experienced the method beyond its primary environment, what are your experiences? Would you change anything or suggest further development?

I experienced this method in a group of almost 10 people discussing and exploring what curiosity means and feels like. The workshop leader proposed texts from diverse fields (cognitive sciences, philosophy, etc.) and each participant read those that interested them. Afterwards, the collaborative/improvised reading started with very fluent text changes/silences etc. The time frame was set in advance. This method allowed to hear text parts I hadn't read and thought about and develop links/connections between theories and testimonies from different disciplines and streams – this created a vast base for further discussions with a large spectrum of perspectives to explore. For further development I would add self-written text of participants and/or propose to add different media.

Could you provide any relevant testimonies?

If possible, please provide testimonies, reflections and statements about the method from its authors and/or users.

Additional references

If possible, please provide additional links, materials, instructions and other relevant content.