

How Might We?

Description

Writing down challenges and opportunities in the “How Might We” question format can produce a broad collection of ideas and draw links between them to find potential solutions. Instead of writing down traditional, often negative or open-ended notes, participants are asked to take notes in the “How Might We” format where they take the insights and the negative points to positively reframe them. Make sure the team understands they are looking for opportunities rather than solutions.

Level ★★☆☆☆

🕒 15-60 mins

👤 3-20 people

Materials & Prep

Post-its (square)

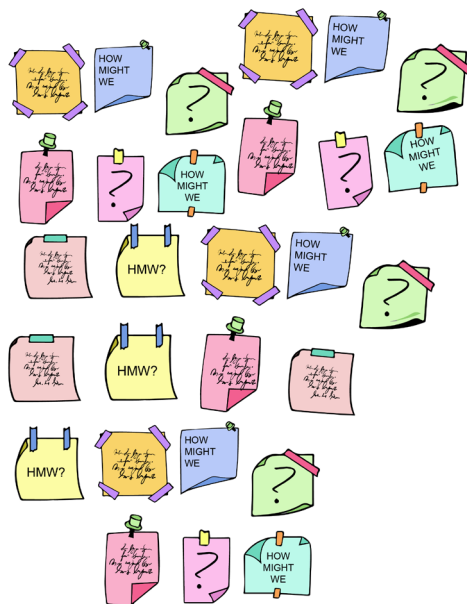
Pens (bold)

Board or wall space

Access Online Toolkit



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Case Study

A departmental committee is carrying out a yearly assessment of the challenges faced by the department. This method encouraged them to look at the problems with a positive attitude and to brainstorm by creating notes that can spark conversations towards improving the department. Some of the notes members have created were: "How Might We attract higher quality students?", "How Might We offer stronger links to the industry?" "How Might We become more effective in attracting external research funding?"

Process

Step 1. Explain to participants how each word of the "How Might We" phrase puts them in the right mindset:

- "How" guides participants to believe the answer is out there
- "Might" lets team members know their "How Might We" statement might or might not work, and either possibility is okay
- "We" reminds team members that the activity is about teamwork and building on each others' ideas

Step 2. Each participant is given a sticky notes pack or thick pile and a marker.

Step 3. Explain to participants to avoid long sentences and explanations.

Step 4. Ask participants to write one "How Might We" question per sticky note for a period of 5-15 minutes.

Step 5. Encourage participants to write as many as possible.

Tip! You can follow up with the categorisation / affinity mapping activity