Yes, No, Maybe

Description

This is a simple and versatile method to implement during the ideation process as it provides an opportunity to analyze a set of data or help identify a problem by revealing focus areas, allowing you to plan next steps. You can frame your upcoming activities by documenting observations or opinions on sticky notes as positive, negative, or having potential. This process invites input from all team members and facilitates productive discussion, identifying issues and insights. This three-category method is used to separate all the ideas into categories depending on how feasible or difficult it is to solve a certain problem.
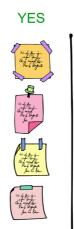
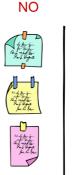| Level ★☆☆☆☆	🕐 5-15 mins	👥 1-5 people

Materials & Prep

Whiteboard, wall or large sheet or paper
Pens
Sticky notes

Access Online Toolkit

explorations.cyprusinteractionlab.com

YES   NO   MAYBE

Cyprus University of Technology

CYPRUS INTERACTION LAB

Yes, No, Maybe

Case Study

A departmental committee on handling the department budget had a range of ideas and needs that required prioritisation. Not all ideas could be implemented under the limited budget. Thus, what would normally have been a series of difficult meetings through this structured method the committee formulated a clear rationale based on a range of factors to justify the decisions made by the committee to the rest of the academic community and provided transparency and clarity.

Process

Step 1. Give each participant a pen and 3 sticky note pads.

Step 2. Divide the whiteboard or surface work area in three segments YES, NO and MAYBE.

Step 3. Explain the activity and the colour key to participants.

Step 4. Present each idea to participants and ask them to re-write the name of the idea on one sticky note and place it in the corresponding category.

Tip! This activity can create conversations and elicit questions from participants (i.e if this change was made then this idea would be a yes instead of maybe). Encourage these conversations and have them document conditions or alternatives to ideas in their sticky notes before placing them to the three categories.