

Backstage preparation

Igniting passion

Awareness of learning

Directing & planning

Reflection on learning



My symbol, my learning

A simple and inspiring way to prepare for self-assessment using symbolic objects from your surroundings.



Aims

- To identify learning outcomes and describe them
- To evaluate the learning process
- To find a personal source of inspiration that can help the learner relate to the activity



Group

- Max 30 people



Needs

- Objects from the venue
- Objects from nature



Time

- 80 mins



Step by step

Each participant is asked to find an object from nature or from the venue that symbolises their learning process and learning outcomes during the project (ask them to be back in max 20 minutes). When everybody is back from their quest, each person presents their symbol, explaining its link to the learning process and learning outcomes of the project.



Debriefing

This method is particularly useful to round off the evaluation session at the end of an activity. In this instance, give everyone the floor to explain their symbol. Limit the number of debriefing questions and keep focused on the learning process:

- Why have you chosen this symbol?
- How can you relate it to your learning?
- Is it an outcome? Is it part of the process?
- How do you, as a learner, relate to the object?

Identifying & documenting

Describing outcomes

Introducing Youthpass

Role of facilitator

**Adaption**

- Working with objects and symbols is suitable for a wide variety of groups as each individual can choose them according to their feelings, needs and abilities.
- Special attention should be paid during the sharing part so that everyone, regardless of their language skills, can share their thoughts.
- Even though originally the symbol was meant to be found in nature, you could also use other objects e.g. ones which the facilitator brings with them or which can be found elsewhere.
- You could also choose a symbol for learning at other points during the training course e.g. during daily reflection time. Participants can draw or stick their symbols into a journal or on a piece of paper that can be used for the final evaluation.

**Tips**

- Sometimes people tend to say more about the symbol, rather than what it represents. Make sure to focus the exercise on the learning process. The symbol is just a source of inspiration.
- This method is also a good opportunity to collect participants' feedback or appreciation of the course, because it usually takes place at the end of the evaluation process.

Submitted by Laimonas Ragauskas (adapted by Juan Ratto-Nielsen), www.salto-youth.net/find-a-tool/699.html