

ACTIVITY 1.2 - Markers Along the Journey: A Mentor in My Life

Purpose

To provide an opportunity for participants to reflect on their own experiences and identify the qualities of mentors who made a difference in their lives

Materials

PARTICIPANT HANDOUTS

- Handout for Activity 3.2: "Attributes of Effective Mentors" - one copy per participant
- Black and white photo cards (see facilitator notes below): optional

SUPPLIES

- Chart paper, markers, tape

Process/Steps

1. Describe the purpose of this activity.
2. Invite participants to think about someone they would consider a mentor (or perhaps a composite of mentors) in their own lives - someone (or a collection of people) who made a positive impact on them. Ask them to think about where they were, when the mentoring relationship occurred, who the person was, and what attributes made the mentor effective.
3. Give participants two or three minutes to jot down their thoughts (and, if you choose to use the photo cards, to select a card that corresponds to what they have written). Then, ask participants to turn to a partner and share their stories. Allow five minutes for paired sharing.
4. With the whole group, ask participants to identify attributes of their mentors and the impact that the mentors had on them. List responses on chart paper.

Some of the typical attributes that participants identify include *reflective, knowledgeable, sense of humor, trustworthy, respectful, can walk the talk, deep understanding of the content, respected by other colleagues, effective listener*. Some of the impacts of effective mentoring that people typically identify include *caused me to think more deeply about how and why I designed my lessons and assessments, provided me with a wider range of ways to think about how to reach particular learning goals, believed in me in ways that encouraged me to do what I did not think I could do*.

5. If the group has already done Activity 3.1 ("A Powerful Learning Experience"), close this

session by asking participants to reflect on how their relationship with their mentors was a powerful learning experience for them.

6. If the group has not done Activity 3.1, distribute to each participant a copy of the handout, "Attributes of Effective Mentors." Invite participants to compare and contrast their lists of mentor attributes with the lists on the handout and, as a whole group, discuss how these lists compare/contrast.

Time Required

15 minutes



Markers Along the journey

- 1) Think about someone you consider a mentor (or perhaps a composite of mentors) in your own life who made a positive impact on you.
- 2) Think about where you were, when the relationship occurred, who the person was, and what attributes made them effective.
- 3) Write down your thoughts.
- 4) Turn to a partner and share stories.
- 5) Be ready to share out/identify attributes of your mentors and impacts on you with the whole group.