

PROCESSES



Weathering Change

Purpose:

To encourage participants to look at an issue or question through new lenses, creating a well-rounded perspective to generate positive solutions.

Materials:

- Pens or markers
- Popsicle sticks
- Copies of the five weather symbols (each group of five should have one set of symbols)
- Copies of the symbols chart handout with descriptions of symbols on one side and clear skies image on the other side (one per participant).

Time for Process:

Approximately 30 minutes.

Pre-process Steps:

1. Prepare your issue or question for the participants to discuss.
2. Determine the number of groups you will have based on five participants per group and print a set of symbols for each group.
3. Cut out the symbols and attach each of them to a popsicle stick.
4. Place the symbol sets on the tables, one set per group.
5. Print the symbols chart handout; one per participant.

Process:






1. Explain to the group that we tend to view issues from one perspective. This process will help participants look at an issue from various viewpoints to get a well-rounded perspective, which will help them to generate solutions.
2. Form groups of five and distribute the symbols chart handout to each participant.
3. Review the definition for each symbol and explain that each symbol represents a different perspective.
4. Explain that participants will answer questions based on the perspective of each weather symbol.
5. Pose the question to be discussed; e.g., “Is the implementation of your school community action plan sustainable?”; “Is there a need for developing a nutrition policy for our school community?” “Are our parents engaged with the healthy schools focus at our school?”.

6. Provide a few minutes for each participant to jot down a few notes under each perspective on the symbols chart handout.
7. Each group member will select one of the symbols. They will answer the posed question from the perspective of their corresponding symbol. Each group member will take 30 seconds to share their perspective. Ask presenters to hold up their symbol so other group members know what perspective they are speaking from.
8. After three minutes, participants will rotate their images clockwise and speak from the new weather symbol perspective.
9. After each group member presents on all five perspectives, everyone will use their "Clear skies" image to brainstorm together what they feel is the most effective way to move forward on the question or issue.
10. Once groups have finished their brainstorming, provide time for each one to present their plan of action with the larger group. Use this to generate group discussions.

Next Steps:

Correlate responses and discuss next steps with the school administrator for presentation to staff and parents.

TOPIC OF DISCUSSION:

SYMBOL	DEFINITION	NOTES
	<p>Information – What information do I have? What are the facts I need to know to answer the question?</p>	
	<p>Benefits – Why is this a good thing? What are the positive results we will see?</p>	
	<p>Cautions – Judgment – What issues or concerns do I anticipate? Will this work?</p>	
	<p>Creativity – What new ideas are possible? Are there new and innovative ways to answer this question?</p>	
	<p>Feelings – What is my gut-reaction to this question? What are my feelings?</p>	

SYMBOL	TRANSLATION	NOTES
	<p>Planning – Where are we now? What are my next steps? What thinking is needed to move this forward?</p>	









