

Postcards from the Edge

An Introduction Tool

Background: This activity was originally developed by Larry Myatt and revised by Debbie Bambino, a National School Reform Faculty facilitator from Philadelphia, as an opportunity for groups to make connections at the beginning of a meeting or workshop.

1. Collect postcards from any and all sources; duplicates are fine.
2. Pass out one postcard randomly to every person in attendance.
3. Allow 2-3 minutes for each person to examine the postcard and determine what meaning it has for them at this particular time. You may have a focused question for them, such as “How is this postcard related to the current educational situation in your school?” but this is not necessary.
4. Ask individuals to share the postcard, and its meaning to them, with the group; time limit of 1-2 minutes. If the group is large, have smaller groups share (4-6 persons).
5. This activity is quite amazing for the synchronicity that occurs. Often it seems that the postcard is exactly the right image for the way a person is feeling or thinking at that moment. It does occasionally give rise to emotions and this should be expected and attended to by the group.