

## In-Class Action-Based Learning Activities

### Affinity Diagrams

**Bloom's Revised Learning Objective:** remember (knowledge)

**Purpose:**

- provides a creative and intuitive approach to learning
- organizes large ideas into natural relationships or patterns
- enhances higher level thinking skills
- promotes controlled social and group discussion
- allows ongoing assessment of student learning

**Application:**

- cut recyclable paper into small pieces or gather small sticky notes
- provide your each of your students with a stack of paper and writing utensils
- without talking or communicating, tell your students the topic and have them write down all their thoughts and ideas surrounding that topic, making sure that they write down one topic per piece of paper
- still, without talking, have your students move into small groups and place their ideas into common themes, relationships or patterns; discard any repeating ideas and keep every unique idea regardless of natural fit
- next, without talking, have your students move into one large group and again merge their ideas into common themes, relationships or patterns providing headings for each main idea/theme/pattern; discard any repeating ideas and keep every unique idea regardless of natural fit
- at this point, discussion can occur to share ideas on groupings, patterns, ideas and meaning; it is acceptable to lead your students through this discussion or allow them to pursue their own lines of thought

**Tips:**

- this is an invaluable tool for reviewing and introducing material
- allow students to take notes and write any comments down to increase their learning and recall once the activity is finished
- use this for complex issues to demonstrate effective order and application of information