Community-building activities Evaluating class culture



Problem-matrix

Purpose

Talking about small and big problems in class in a constructive way and where everyone is involved.

Description

- All students receive a post-it note.
- Students are given 3 minutes each to write down one thing that they think the class could do better. This might be: 'Saying hello to everyone in the morning'.
- The note is anonymous, and students do not have to write their name on the note.
- While students are writing, draw the problem matrix (figure to the right) on the board so it becomes possible to place post-its on it.
- After the 3 minutes, collect the notes. You spend a couple of minutes looking through them to see if some of the notes deal with the same things.
 Remove any repeating notes or silly inputs.
- You then select a note from the stack and read it to the class. You should now have a joint talk about where the post-it should be placed in the matrix (that is, is it a big / small thing, and how easy / difficult is it / it to solve?). The exercise continues this way



difficult is it / it to solve?). The exercise continues this way until all the banknotes are on the board - there may be post-its with the same message or silly ones and they do not have to go up.

- Once all the notes have been placed on the problem matrix, select with the class three to five notes that you will try to solve that might be the challenges that you all think are most important to take care of.
- Then you take one 'problem' at a time and talk about what it takes to solve it. Write down the students' answers. You have 10 minutes to review the selected post-it and talk about solutions.
- Just as the problems must have been as specific as possible, the solutions must also be specific. It is not a solution to say, 'We must get better at saying hello', but talk about what behaviors or actions it takes to get better.

Practical

- Time consumption: Set aside 20-25 minutes for the entire activity.
- Requirements: Being in a room where it is possible to draw the problem matrix.
- Preparation: Bring post-its.

Tip!

Make a parking space for the issues you cannot solve. Write a 'P' and circle it. This is the parking lot. If something has been written on a post-it that cannot be solved at class level (eg 'longer breaks', 'bad food in the canteen'), put them in the parking lot.