

Engaging 4-H Club Members



Learners Retain:

- _____% of what we *read or hear*
- _____% of what we *see*
- _____% of what we *hear and see*
- _____% of what we *say*
- _____% of what we *do*
- _____

"Tell me and I forget, teach me and I remember, involve me and I learn."
-Benjamin Franklin

What are we "doing" at club meetings that will help members retain the lessons?

Ideas to Use

- 1) **Sticky Wall** – Large piece of paper or fabric sprayed with an adhesive spray. It is easily portable, you just need a way to affix to a wall. Participants write on plain paper (copy paper or construction paper) and those items will stick to the wall. You can quickly re-group items, as consensus is gained. The wall is portable!

How could you use this technique?

- 2) **Power of Observation** – Project a picture on the wall or have copies of photos and ask participants to observe for a certain component.

How could you use this technique?

- 3) **Decision Making, Consensus Building or Learning what a group thinks**

Thumbs Up - Participants use thumbs up for agreement, thumbs down for disagreement and thumbs to the side if they are not sure. Quick way to see where people are at with decisions. You can ask, what do you need to move to thumbs up?

Forced Choice/Cross the Line – Make your decision, no one is in the middle.

Red Card/Green Card – Hold up your card, do you agree or disagree?

On a Continuum – Where is your group? Given opposite choices, where are you on the continuum?

Fingers – Show on your fingers indicating where you are on the continuum.

How could you use these techniques?

- 4) **Discussion Groups** - Rules for meetings are fine, especially for electing officers. But many clubs like to work and plan together without using these rules. Votes - - especially if the vote is close - - can leave a lot of members with the feeling that they did not have any part in the plan. Discussion groups let all members feel they had input into a decision. The group talks about something until everyone - - or nearly everyone - - agrees on what to do.

Circle Response - To start the discussion, the discussion leader or president says, “I’ll call on each one in turn (around the circle) for his/her best suggestion on our plan. If you don’t have a quick idea, you can say ‘pass.’ Will the secretary please write all ideas down.”

Buzz Groups – If you club has 10 or more members, you can use small groups to decide on a plan of action. After all the ideas are presented, divide into groups of five or six members each. Divide the ideas into two or more sections, one section for each group. After buzzing for four or five minutes, each group reports back on its best idea.

Timed Discussion – Divide club members into smaller groups. Give each group a topic to discuss and then only allow one or two minutes with a timer going. When the timer goes off, the discussion is finished.

How could you use these techniques?

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