



The Writing on the Wall

TYPE:

Communication Tool

GROUP SIZE:

Any

MATERIALS:

Large Newsprint, Markers or Pens, & Masking Tape

INTRODUCTION:

This exercise will help identify the comfort level of group members, reveal individual feelings, open communication lines and assess group climate.

DESCRIPTION:

Hang newsprint on the wall. Instruct group members to express their feelings about the group and their membership in the group. Encourage group members to use words, pictures, or abstract drawings to represent their feelings. Use the provided processing questions to facilitate a group discussion.

PROCESSING:

- How do you feel about being a part of the group?
- What was it like to put your feelings into words or pictures?
- What did you learn from this activity?
- What can we do to continue building a comfortable atmosphere for our group meetings?

VARIATIONS:

Group members may feel self conscious about expressing their feelings in front of the group. Encourage an open and welcoming atmosphere. During a final group meeting, repeat this activity. Compare the two sheets of paper and facilitate a discussion about the development of the group. Note the differences and similarities between the two sheets of paper. Ask members who have joined since the first meeting to talk about the changes within the group since they have joined. Try playing music during this exercise.

OUTCOMES:

- To assess the climate of the group
- To enhance communication
- To measure group development

REMEMBER:

- Introduce the exercise*
- Explain it thoroughly*
- Process it completely*