

# Idea Sprint

A fast paced collaborative activity  
to generate creative ideas.  
Encourages diverse perspectives  
and quick thinking.

## ENGAGING WORKSHOP



- 1. Set the Challenge** – Define the topic in one sentence.
- 2. Solo Brainstorm (3 mins)** – Write as many ideas as possible on sticky notes.
- 3. Pair & Share (5 mins)** – Combine and refine ideas in pairs.
- 4. Sort & Theme (5 mins)** – Sort ideas into themes.
- 5. Vote & Prioritize (3 mins)** – Vote on the best ideas (3 votes each).
- 6. Action Plan (5 mins)** – Plan next steps for top ideas.

**Encourage “wild” ideas**—sometimes the most unexpected ones lead to the best solutions!



## Set the Vibe

The first few minutes can make or break engagement. Kick things off with something unexpected, relatable, or thought-provoking to light that spark and get people leaning in from the get-go.

### ENGAGING WORKSHOP



- **Ask Big Questions** – Use a bold “What if?”, a juicy quote, or a surprising stat.
- **Make It Real** – Link your topic to something they’ve actually experienced.
- **What’s In It for Me?** – Be clear about what they’ll walk away with.
- **Bring the Buzz** – Energy is contagious! Start strong, and they’ll follow your lead.
- **Short & Snappy** – Don’t drag it out. Get to the action fast.

**Try starting with “Imagine if...!”**

For example, “Imagine if every student felt excited to walk into your class each day...”

# Boost Engagement

Learning sticks when people do, not just listen. So ditch the lectures and get everyone talking, moving, and collaborating to keep learners curious, alert, and way more invested.

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- **Spark Thinking** – Start with an open-ended question.
- **Mix It Up** – Change activities every 10 minutes.
- **Get Moving** – Change seating or stand to share.
- **Reflect Often** – Pause for quick reflections.
- **Read the Room** – Adjust based on energy levels.

**Keep a 10-minute rhythm** - every 10 minutes, cue the next hit (new task, question, movement, etc.).

# Link it or Lose it

Connect your content to what participants actually do and watch the light bulbs go off. People care more when they can say, “this solves my problem!” Relevance turns information into transformation.

## ENGAGING WORKSHOP



- **Start with Challenges** – Ask: “What’s your biggest work challenge?”
- **Use Real Examples** – Share case studies relevant to their roles.
- **Connect Theory to Practice** – Relate concepts to their daily work.
- **Invite Sharing** – Encourage swapping real experiences and tips.
- **End with Action** – Ask: “What will you change starting tomorrow?”

Ask this simple and powerful question that gets people thinking practically - “How does this apply to your daily work?”

# Show Less, Say More!

Ditch the text blocks and let clean, visual slides support your presentation - not steal the show. Keep it simple and your audience will stay with you.

**ENGAGING WORKSHOP**



- **One Idea per Slide** - Stick to one clear point per slide. Make it obvious, make it pop.
- **Show, Don't Tell** - Replace text walls with images, icons, or bold keywords. Think visual cue cards, not essays.
- **Talk to People, Not Your Slides** - Slides are your backup dancers—you're the main act. Speak to your audience, not the screen.
- **Story Over Bullets** - Skip the bullet point snooze-fest. Use stories, examples, and real talk to make your message stick.
- **Share the Details Later** - Got extra info? Great! Put it in a handout, not on the slide.

**Use the 6x6 rule:**

No more than 6 words per line.

No more than 6 lines per slide.

Clean. Crisp. Click-worthy.

# Ditch the Monologue

Great learning happens through great conversations. When people speak up, they think deeper, connect more, and stay engaged.

**ENGAGING WORKSHOP**



- **Ask Open-Ended Questions** – Spark curiosity with prompts like: “What’s your take on this?”
- **Acknowledge Every Voice** – Respond with “Great point!” to keep the kōrero going.
- **Use Pairs/Small Groups** – Let quieter voices share in smaller settings.
- **Balance Air Time** – Guide dominant voices and encourage others to speak up.
- **Pause for Reflection** – Give time after questions for thoughtful responses.

**Use this magic phrase:**

“Turn to your neighbor and share...”  
It instantly sparks conversation  
without pressure.

# Make it Stick!

People forget slides, but they remember stories. Turn your facts into feelings by weaving in a little narrative magic. Stories spark emotions, create connections, and make your message unforgettable. They turn “info” into “aha!”

## ENGAGING WORKSHOP



- **Tell Real, Relevant Stories** - Pick true or relatable tales that tie directly to your topic.
- **Keep It Snappy** - Short and purposeful wins. Think campfire story, not epic novel.
- **Use the Magic Formula** - Use the story magic formula: Challenge + Action = Outcome.
- **Invite Their Stories Too** - Allow participant sharing by asking: “Has this happened to you?”
- **Tie It Back** - After every story, link it to a takeaway: “Here’s what that story teaches us...”

**Start with:**

“Let me tell you a quick story...”

Boom—instant curiosity. Everyone leans in.

# PD Wrap-up

Always end with a packed suitcase—filled with actions, not just ideas.

Give your participants something they can actually use the minute they leave.

Learning without action is like a map without a destination. Takeaways turn insights into next steps—and that's where the magic happens.

## ENGAGING WORKSHOP



- **Write 3-5 Takeaways** - Get participants to write their own list.
- **Ask Reflective Questions** - Prompt learners to consider their learning, its personal impact, and future growth.
- **Handout** - Quick summary, checklist, or cheat sheet.
- **Follow Up** - Send a short check-in email.
- **Final Mic-Drop** - Reinforce the core message in one sentence.

**Use this magic question:**

“What’s one thing you’ll do differently starting tomorrow?”

It turns inspiration into action—and that’s how change begins.

# Level up Every Time!

Reflection turns experience into excellence. Feedback isn't failure—it's your secret weapon for growth! Every session is a chance to learn, tweak, and get even better.

## ENGAGING WORKSHOP



- **Ask for Feedback** - Use a quick form:
  - What worked?
  - What didn't?
  - What could be better?
- **Replay the Energy** - Reflect on when engagement was high or low—use this as your guide.
- **Find One Fix** - Ask: “What’s one thing to improve next time?” Keep it simple.
- **Try Something New** - Test a new tool, activity, or style each session to keep it fresh.
- **Learn from the Legends** - Observe great facilitators and borrow their best techniques.

Pass around a quick feedback form before people leave—make it easy, fun, and fast.

# Lighten the Learning

When people feel relaxed, they open up, engage more, and actually enjoy learning. Using humour lowers walls, builds trust, and makes your content stick like a catchy tune.

## ENGAGING WORKSHOP



- **Keep It Light** - Share funny, relatable stories or “we’ve all been there” moments.
- **Laugh at Yourself** - Own mistakes with a chuckle—it makes you more relatable.
- **Keep It Conversational** - Talk like you’re chatting with friends, not lecturing.
- **Let Your Body Talk** - Use smiles, gestures, and expression to engage.
- **Don’t Force the Funny** - Skip awkward jokes—let your natural personality shine.

**The best humour is real.** A perfectly timed, “Well... that didn’t go as planned!” can be way more powerful than a canned joke.