Working method: Four corners with Magic Charts

source Lotte van Egmond

Objective: To check understanding through active participation and discussion. Detecting and clarifying misconceptions. Allow participants to reflect and think about their choices.

Preparation

- 1. Magic Charts: Hang one Magic Chart on each wall or in each corner of the room.
- 2. Label each corner with an answer option (e.g.A,B,C,D).
 - o Alternative: use terms such as Agree, Disagree, Doubt and No opinion.
- 3. Prepare a number of multiple choice questions or statements that fit the theme.
 - o Example Corporate: "What is the solution to problem X?"
 - Corner A: proposal 1 end project
 - Corner B: proposal 2 increase budget
 - Corner C: proposal 3 etc.
 - Corner D: proposition 4 etc.
 - o Example Education: "Who was the leader of the Batavieren uprising?"
 - Corner A: Julius Caesar
 - Corner B: Claudius Civilis
 - Corner C: Alexander the Great
 - Corner D: Hannibal
- 4. Make sure there are pens or markers in each corner.

Execution

Step 1: Ask a question and make a choice

- 1. Ask the question or present the statement to the group.
- 2. Participants walk to the corner they believe represents the correct answer.
- 3. In the corner, the participant writes their choice and reason on the Magic Chart, for example:
 - o Why do they think this is the right answer?
 - o What knowledge or logic did they use?

Step 2: Discussion and argumentation

- 1. Discuss together the choices that participants have made.
 - o Ask a few participants in each corner to explain their arguments.
 - o Encourage participants to respond to each other's arguments.
- 2. Identify misconceptions and discuss why a particular answer is wrong or right.

Step 3: Go over and reflect

- 1. Give participants the opportunity to switch corners after the discussion if they want to adjust their choice.
- 2. In the new corner, they can add a short note to the Magic Chart about why they changed their mind.

Step 4: Closing

- 1. Discuss the new insights and let participants reflect on what they have learned.
- 2. Summarize the most important points on one central Magic Chart or board, so that it is clear what knowledge has been deepened.







Variations

- 1. **Differentiation**: Add more complex or open-ended questions that allow multiple answers and allow participants to discuss in corners to arrive at a shared answer.
- 2. **Reflection corner:** Create a fifth corner where participants can go if they cannot make a choice yet. Have them write down what still makes them unsure.
- 3. **Game format:** Give points to corners with the correct answer and make it a competition element.





