

Affinity Diagramming

Affinity Diagramming is a tool to help you answer the “What will students learn?” question. It is a simple brainstorming process, useful in a variety of situations. In this context, it may help generate and organize many ideas about what to include in your school museum project plan.

Participants engage in the following process in small groups of 5 to 6 people. Each group has a piece of chart paper and a marker.

The Affinity Diagram Process...

- 1) Alone (and silently), brainstorm your answer to the following springboard question. Write each idea on a separate sticky note—one idea per sticky note, but as many ideas as you can generate.

Springboard question—What will students learn as a result of being involved in this school museum project about [TOPIC]?

- 2) After you've exhausted all of your ideas, affix your sticky notes on the team's chart paper so everyone in your small group can read them.
- 3) Your team works together to group sticky notes into categories of likeness and then name each cluster with a category heading.

NOTE: If they support your content standards, category headings in your Affinity Diagram may become Focus Questions for your school museum. Individual sticky notes may become Research Questions.