

The Remember-All

In the Harry Potter series by J.K. Rowling, one of the many strange objects of the world of wizardry is a *remember-all*. With this device, the character Neville is able to recall all sorts of information – as long as he can hang onto it, of course! In other chapters, the great wizard, Albus Dumbledore, has a *pensive* stored in an alcove of his office. Using his wand, he extracts wisps of memories from his head and lets them swirl into a large bowl. There he can review and examine them at his leisure.

This is your chance to create your own magical memory device. If you could make a *remember-all* for any topic, what would it look like? What words, images, or symbols would you use to help you remember that important information?

If you could make a *pensive*, what memories, emotions, or ideas would you store inside for later viewing? How would you represent concepts so you could recall them and re-consider them any time you wanted?

Look through the samples, objects, and materials at this Learning Station. Try making some of the items, “deconstruct” the samples, and jot some notes about how you might use these same techniques. Then be prepared to describe them to the rest of the group. Talk about what makes this type of takeaway effective, when you might use it, and any caveats about it.

Possible Items:

- Shapes to decorate
- Large hollow Easter eggs
- Seven-day pill containers
- Gum or candy containers
- Old Tupperware
- Gift boxes
- Jewelry boxes
- Photos, pictures, glue, markers, pins, pipe cleaners, etc.

Incan Wisdom

The ancient Incans, who lived in the mountains of South America, built a thriving civilization that was dependent upon a strong communication system. To maintain government, military, and commercial systems they needed to communicate reliably across steep mountains and deep valleys. Messages were “written” in the form of beads strung together to represent the communication. Runners would carry these strings of beads through the mountains from the king to his governors. Today we use a rosary to remember a sequence of prayers. And doesn’t the array of tiny colored patches on the breast of a general’s uniform tell a complete story of accomplishments?

You can turn this Incan technique in to a memory device for your training participants. The enclosed handout, “Memory Beads,” describes how to use beads to teach about the 40 Assets for youth development. Use that activity as a frame to see how the concept is facilitated. Then think of your own applications for the topics you use in training.

Next, get creative. Use the enclosed templates and pictures from magazines to create collage posters. What would a “Memory Shield” look like? How about a “Team Memory Crest?” What other objects can you invent to help someone remember your training?

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Items:

- Beads
- String
- Scissors
- Magazines, Calendar pictures
- Collage Templates

2D or Not 2D...

That is the Question

The printed word is not necessarily a bad way to make a takeaway for your training. The question is how to make sure it will be kept where it will be used as a reminder instead of dropped into a file. Sometimes just changing the shape or color of paper can do the trick. But there are many other ways to keep handouts in people's hands where they are played with and used.

At this Learning Station, you'll find what I call "sliders," and "spinners," along with two types of simple books. You can either make them ahead of your training or provide the materials and let participants do that work as part of their learning or review.

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Items:

- Magazines or Calendar Pictures
- Markers, Tape, Glue
- Samples: Spinners, Sliders, Books (origami, accordion)

A Model World

There's no question that a three dimensional object is difficult to slide between the flaps of a manila folder or close into a file drawer. It's also difficult to ignore when it sits on your desk or hangs over your computer monitor where it invites manipulation, examination, and play.

This Learning Station will give you an opportunity to explore the possibilities of translating ideas into 3D objects. You'll find sample mobiles and templates for various shapes that you can construct ahead of time or have your participants create during your training.

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Items:

- Templates of various 3D shapes
- Construction paper
- Scissors
- Markers
- Tape, Glue

Write On!

When you were a young child, perhaps you were reprimanded for drawing with markers on the wall. Graffiti is a form of identification, expression, and, for some, art. Tattoos and body art are now commonplace. Bumper stickers, no longer confined to bumpers, express politics, preferences, and humor. In all these examples, the markings become permanent, public expressions of beliefs and sentiments. And in most cases, people took careful thought before they decided what to write and how to express themselves. After all, if you are going to make something for everyone to see, you'll likely think about it twice.

Offer your participants the same opportunity to think critically about what was most important in your training. Pass out markers and an interesting object to write on or decorate. What objects would work best to extend or expand upon the concepts in your training event?

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Items:

- Various Objects: Hats, T-Shirts, Smile Guys, Hands, Wide Ribbon, Banners
- Permanent Marking Pens