

Storyline

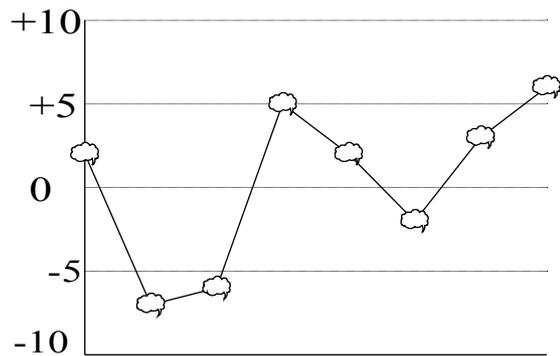
- *Storyline* is a chart made by participants showing their 'ups and downs' (or 'highs and lows') over a period of time.
- The chart can represent a 'journey' through a course of study, a work project or while learning a skill.
- *Storyline* can chart anything that fluctuates, such as emotion, involvement, motivation, effort, difficulty, understanding, relevance, confidence.
- A chart makes it easier for speakers to communicate. It also makes it easier for others to see the big picture, follow the story and ask good questions.

Why would I use Storyline?

- To provide thinking and preparation time before people tell their 'story'.
- To help people focus on a particular theme while telling of their story (e.g involvement, motivation, effort, difficulty, understanding, relevance, confidence, performance ...)
- To help participants notice similarities and differences in each other's stories, and to stimulate interest, empathy and support between participants.
- To provide insights into what motivates or demotivates each participant.
- To bring out stories of resilience – if asked "What helped you recover from the dips?"

What do I need for setting up Storyline?

- For making individual *Storylines*, each participant needs pen and paper.
- For a more active version, provide participants with 5 metre ropes for charting their story on the floor or ground
- For paired work (with ropes) you need one rope between two and plenty of space. If ropes or space are limited, participants can tell their stories one at a time to the whole group.



- You will need a good supply of suitable questions if you want to go beyond storytelling and encourage the analysis and discussion of the stories.

Exploring a Storyline

Questions for stimulating further reflection.

1. Can you name five emotions that you were feeling at different points in your story?
2. What caused your high points? How did you (or others) contribute to these high points?
3. What did you or others do to help you bounce back from your low points?
4. How did your feelings influence what you said or did?
5. How do you think your feelings influenced what others said or did?
6. How did the feelings of others influence what you said or did?
7. In a similar situation in future, how would you like your *Storyline* to be different?

Storyline: plus, minus, anything

- + *Storyline* helps participants communicate...
- ... but some may not want to tell their story.
- + *Storyline* provides the big picture and a balanced overview before going into the detail.
- ∞ When walking the line body language tends to enhance communication.
- ∞ Participants can add objects, words or pictures to their *Storyline* to help them tell the story.
- ∞ For tips about group Storylines see: <http://reviewing.co.uk/articles/ropes.htm>