

CREATING A COMMUNITY PAPER QUILT

This is a visual community building exercise. Could be used as an opening exercise for a conference or meeting. Good for groups of various sizes. Could work as an icebreaker activity or as a brainstorming activity to get lots of ideas quickly. NOTE: If you have a very large group, break into smaller groups to do the activity and create mini-quilts and then combine all mini quilts into one large one.

Materials:

- 1 **“quilt square”** per participant Consider using 3x5 index cards (light colored), scrap booking paper or stationary card stock (be sure any background design is subtle)
- Glue Stick(s)
- Large Display board(s)-cardboard or foam-poster board size or science project type
- Dark colored markers

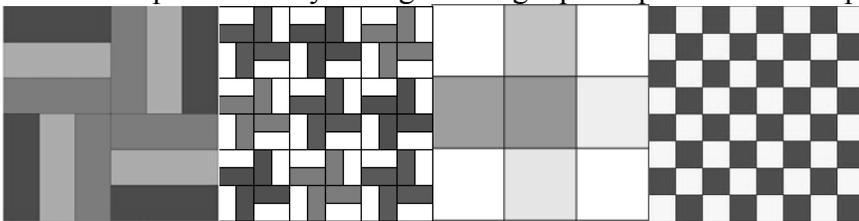
Instructions:

- Leader gives out 1 **“quilt square”** and a marker to each participant
- Leader reads out a prepared question to group relevant to the purpose of the conference or meeting
- Each participant writes his/her response to question on one side of the “quilt square”
- Each participant returns completed **“quilt square”** to leader
- (optional) Participant or Leader reads out responses from the **“quilt squares”** to the group
- Leader glues all **“quilt squares”** to the display board in a pattern or random arrangement so it looks like a quilt or collage
- Display the paper quilt so participants can take time to view it as a whole to get a sense of the greater community.
- (optional) Take a digital photograph of the quilt(s) to add to your newsletter or website - create posters - tote bags, etc.

Alternative Quilt Construction:

- Whole punch four sides of square and use short pieces of ribbons or yarn to connect the squares to create your “home-made” quilt.

Some examples of how you might arrange quilt squares on the display board:



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