

Workshop

Unblocking Learning: Overcoming Sticky Points and Stuck Places

Introduction (5 minutes)

Welcome participants to the workshop and express gratitude for their attendance. Introduce the workshop topic by explaining that today we'll be exploring common challenges people encounter in their learning journeys and strategies for overcoming them. Emphasize the importance of recognizing and addressing learning obstacles to foster continuous growth and improvement. Share the objectives of the workshop, including:

- Encouraging self-reflection on personal learning obstacles.
- Facilitating group discussions to exchange insights and strategies.
- Guiding participants in setting actionable goals for overcoming their stuck places.

Activity 1: Identifying Sticky Points (15 minutes)

Ask participants to take a moment to individually reflect on their own experiences with learning obstacles or stuck points. Provide prompts or questions to guide their reflection, such as:

- What are some specific challenges you've encountered while learning new concepts or skills? When do you typically feel stuck or frustrated in your learning process?
- Invite students to enter their response into the chat but do not press send until I say so.

Allow a few minutes for reflection, ensuring participants have enough time to fully consider their experiences.

Allow time for reading the responses in the chat.

Activity 2: Sharing and Group Discussion (15 minutes)

Divide participants into small groups consisting of 3-5 members each. Instruct participants to share their reflections on learning obstacles or stuck points within their respective groups.

When everyone is back as a whole group facilitate a group discussion where participants can discuss common themes, patterns, and strategies for overcoming these challenges. Encourage active listening, empathy, and support among group members as they share their experiences and insights. Provide guiding questions to stimulate discussion, such as:

Have others in your group experienced similar challenges? What strategies have you found helpful in overcoming learning obstacles?

Activity 3: Analyzing Strategies (10 minutes)

Present participants with a list of common strategies for overcoming learning obstacles.

Handout material already made, and Liesel may have put into Teach Anywhere. Direct participants to the link and take a few minutes to read.

Examples include: Seeking help from peers, teachers, or mentors. Breaking tasks into smaller, manageable steps. Experimenting with different learning approaches (e.g., visual, auditory, kinesthetic).

Ask participants to individually evaluate which strategies resonate most with them and why. Facilitate a brief discussion where participants can share their insights and preferences for specific strategies. Encourage participants to consider how they might adapt or combine these strategies to address their own learning obstacles.

Activity 4: Goal Setting and Action Planning (15 minutes)

Guide participants in setting SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound) goals related to overcoming ***their identified learning obstacles***. Encourage participants to consider the strategies discussed in the previous activity and select one or two actionable steps they can take to address their sticky points. Provide time for participants to create personalized action plans outlining their goals and strategies. Emphasize the importance of accountability and follow-through in achieving their goals, and encourage participants to share their action plans with a peer or mentor for additional support.

Conclusion and Reflection (5 minutes)

Summarize key takeaways from the workshop, highlighting the importance of self-awareness, peer support, and actionable goal-setting in overcoming learning obstacles. Invite participants to reflect on what they've learned and how they plan to apply it to their own learning journeys. Encourage participants to stay connected and share their progress with each other, fostering a sense of community and ongoing support. Express gratitude to participants for their participation and engagement, and encourage them to reach out if they have any further questions or need additional support.

Optional Extension: Follow-up Resources

Provide participants with additional resources, such as articles, videos, or worksheets, for further exploration and support in overcoming learning obstacles. Encourage participants to stay connected and share their progress with each other, fostering a sense of community and ongoing support.

Teachers encountering new material may face several sticky points or stuck places in their learning journey. Some common challenges include:

- **Understanding Complex Concepts:** Teachers may struggle to grasp complex or abstract concepts presented in new material, particularly if it diverges from their existing knowledge base or teaching methods.
- **Adapting Teaching Strategies:** Implementing new teaching strategies or methodologies based on the new material can be challenging, especially if they require a significant departure from familiar approaches.
- **Integrating Curriculum:** Aligning the new material with existing curriculum frameworks and standards may present difficulties, particularly if there are conflicting priorities or limited resources available for implementation.
- **Overcoming Resistance:** Teachers may encounter resistance or skepticism from colleagues, administrators, or students when introducing new material, which can hinder their ability to effectively integrate it into their teaching practice.
- **Managing Time and Resources:** Finding the time and resources to adequately study and incorporate new material into lesson planning and instruction can be a barrier, particularly in contexts with heavy workloads or limited professional development support.
- **Addressing Student Needs:** Identifying and addressing the diverse learning needs and abilities of students in the classroom while navigating new material can be challenging, requiring careful differentiation and adaptation of instructional strategies.
- **Evaluating Effectiveness:** Assessing the effectiveness of new material in improving student learning outcomes and engagement may be difficult, requiring ongoing reflection, feedback, and adjustment based on evidence and data.
- **Maintaining Motivation:** Sustaining motivation and enthusiasm for learning new material over time, particularly in the face of setbacks or initial difficulties, can be a challenge, requiring resilience and a growth mindset.

These sticky points or stuck places can vary depending on the nature of the new material, the context in which it is being implemented, and the individual strengths and experiences of the teacher. Recognizing and addressing these challenges through reflection, collaboration, and professional development can support teachers in effectively integrating new material into their teaching practice.