

3 More Openers and Closers from the Train-the-Trainer Class: “Training from the BACK of the Room!”

Here are 3 more Connection (Opener) and Conclusion (Closer) activities you can use with any topic and any group of learners. With a little variation, each activity can be used as either an opener or a closer.

1. DOT-VOTING

As a Connection (Opener): Participants gather around a wall chart where you’ve already printed the learning objectives (in LARGE print with DARK marker ink so the chart can be read by all). You pass out sheets of colored paper dots (the sticky ones from office supply stores) and tell each participant to take two dots. Then have participants silently read the learning objectives and place their dots beside the two objectives that are the most important ones to them. Tell them that they will revisit the Dot-Voting chart at the end of the class to see if they got what they wanted to learn. If time allows, follow the Dot-Voting activity with a quick discussion about their observations regarding the dot clusters.

As a Conclusion (Closer): Revisit the Dot-Voting chart by having participants form small standing groups near the chart and discuss what they learned about the objectives that they had dotted.

2. STANDING SURVEY

As a Connection (Opener): Participants stand and talk to at least two other people from other table groups about what they hope to learn from the class, or what they already know about the topic. When they return to their table groups, each participant gives a quick verbal summary of what their Standing Survey group talked about.

As a Conclusion (Closer): Participants form small, standing groups with people from other table groups and discuss what they learned and how they plan to apply this information.

3. THE GALLERY WALK

As an Connection (Opener): Participants walk around the room and write their responses on wall charts that are pre-labeled with printed statements (examples: “One fact I already know about the topic ... One question I want answered ... What I want to learn ... What I want to be able to do when this training is over ...”).

As a Conclusion (Closer): Participants revisit the charts and compare their opener responses with what they would write as a closer. Or they write their responses to another set of chart statements (examples: “The most important fact I learned was ... What I plan to do with what I learned ... A question I still have is ... My top take-away from this class is ...”).

Be sure to explore all the **FREE** resources on Sharon Bowman’s website at www.Bowperson.com. For more information about “Training from the BACK of the Room!” and details about the 2016 classes in Orlando, Florida (April 14th - 16th), and in London, England (May 17th - 19th), click on the links on Sharon’s homepage or training events page.

