

Sustainability Training School Team-Building Activity

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Aims

- One of the challenges of working within a multi-disciplinary research team is communicating complex ideas using a shared language, to reach mutual understanding about how to articulate and address research problems.
- The aim of this session is to introduce you to an arts-based method that supports ‘research thinking’ and aims to develop effective teamwork and communication skills.



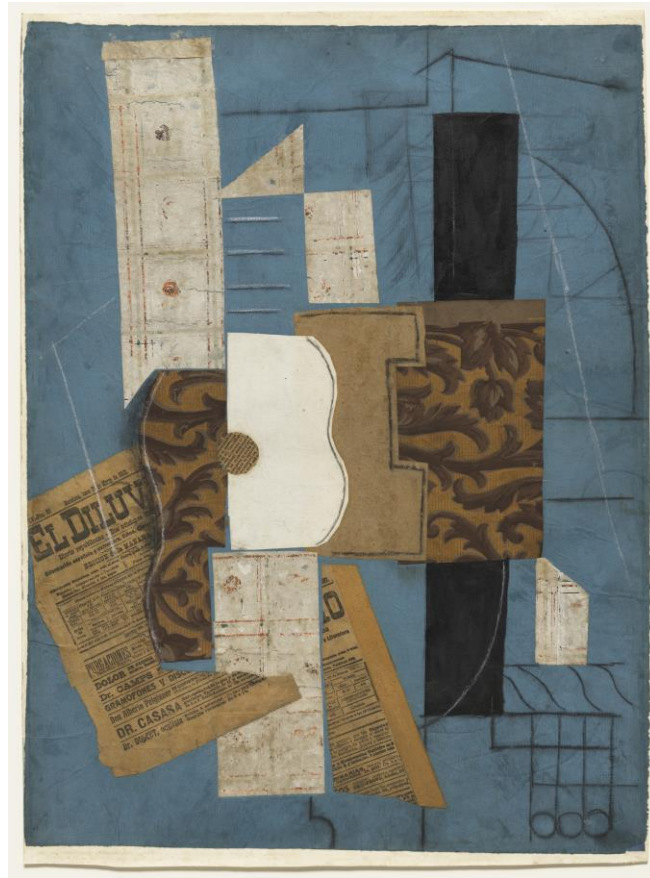
Today's Challenge

- You will be working in groups to create a collage and presentation.
- The purpose of the art-work is to articulate and communicate the research problem that your group project aims to address.
- Your team will nominate one person to give a concise five-minute presentation on behalf of your group.

What is Collage?

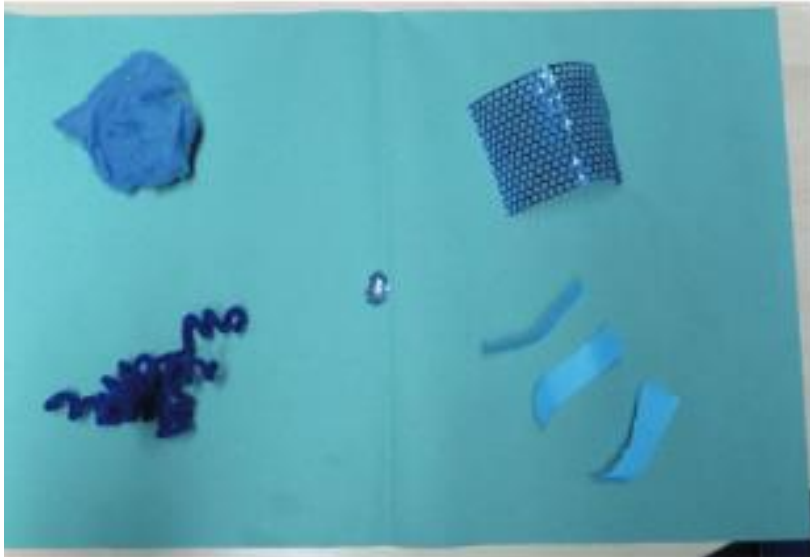
- What do you think of when you hear the word 'collage'?
- The same word is used in French, German, Italian, Swedish, Catalan, Danish....

What is Collage?



Pablo Picasso, 'Guitar' (1913)

What is Collage as a Research Method?



Culshaw, S. (2019). The unspoken power of collage? Using an innovative arts-based research method to explore the experience of struggling as a teacher. *London Review of Education*, 17(3), 268–283. <https://doi.org/10.18546/LRE.17.3.03>

Why are we using collage today?

- Ideas made concrete through visual images (Butler-Kisber, 2010)
- The familiar made strange ‘beyond the spoken word’ (Culshaw, 2019)
- Collage enables metaphor (similarity or comparison) and metonymy (contiguity or connectedness), revealing both the intended and the unintended (Richmond, 2022)
- ‘a reflective process, as an elicitation for thinking, writing, and/or discussion, and as a conceptualizing approach’. (Butler-Kisber, 2010)

Stage 1: Defining the Research Problem

- Discuss and agree:
 - **What is the research problem that your project aims to address? (You may want to write this down as a statement)**
 - **Who is the audience for the presentation and collage?**
 - **Who will present on behalf of the group?**

Stage 2: Sifting, Cutting and Making

- Using the magazines provided, cut out images, colours, textures, etc. and begin the process of making using the A1 card provided.
- Consider: How will your aesthetic choices (images, colours, textures, overall composition) reflect or articulate your research problem?
- Support your nominated presenter to plan and deliver the presentation....for just five minutes!



Stage 3: Five-Minute Presentations

- The nominated presenter has five minutes to present
 - What is the research problem the collage aims to articulate?
 - What was your experience of using collage in a team-based activity?



References

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