

# Affinity Diagram



## Description

A tool to generate, organize, and consolidate information gathered through Brainstorming.

## Utility

Affinity Diagrams help to give a sense of the ideas that a group has concerning a given issue, provides an anonymous, nonjudgmental format for gathering group input. They give the group a sense of how serious a concern is because of the number of thoughts written on the issue. They also focuses on how the group is similar in thought.

## Construction

1. The leader states the problem or issue to be addressed.
2. Brainstorm and record all ideas, one per slip of paper, silently. (Use index cards or Post-Its.)
3. Post the ideas on a board or arrange on a table.
4. Have the entire group move the cards into piles by like ideas or common themes.
5. Name each group with a header that summarizes the content.
6. List all ideas under the categories or tape up ideas under headers to create the diagram.
7. Discuss the piles. Look at frequency of recurring themes, ask questions as needed and address next steps.

**Worksheet #129** *Affinity Diagram Template*

**Activity Worksheet**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Abraham Lincoln**

Abe's Childhood	Abraham's family	Moving
Jobs before presidency	When Abraham Lincoln was president	How Abe died