

Activity 1. Sustainability is...

Purpose: Learning to conceptualize sustainability

Time needed: 35 minutes

Resources: Four slips of paper for each student; a few sheets of flipchart paper, a few different coloured markers for each group



Procedure:

Working individually and avoiding discussion, students write four different statements beginning with “Sustainability is” on their four slips of paper. The statements should capture their own understandings of the concept of sustainability.

Groups of five are then formed to share and discuss what has been written. Following their review, the group writes out a one-new sentence definition in large letters on the flip chart paper. Graphics (symbols, cartoons etc.) should be added. Each group presents its work. Discussion of various contributions (which can be displayed in class) with sharing of key discussion points follows.



Potential:

This activity provides a springboard for consideration of the nature of sustainability through a sharing of perceptions and understandings. A multiplicity of meanings are likely to be aired.

Source: Graham Pike and David Selby (2000). *In the Global Classroom 2*. Pippin: Toronto. p. 64