Debriefing: Key take-aways

Dotmocracy

Dotmocracy is a simple and visual method for group prioritization/ decision-making. It supports a group to quickly see which options are most popular or relevant. The ideas are written on post-its and stuck up on a wall for the whole group to see. Each person votes for the options they think are the strongest.

TIMEFRAME	GROUP SIZE	FACILITATION LVL.	COMFORT ZONE
5 – 25 people	●○○	5 – 10 minutes	●○○

Use it to...

- Visually decide as a group

- Decision-making

- When a group has generated several ideas that need assessment and prioritization

- Quickly making decisions in a group when there are multiple options

MATERIALS AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS

- Markers
- Sticky dots (optional)

LEARN MORE

- [Dotmocracy](#)
- [Hyper Island](#)
- [Session Lab](#)

- You might also try another method of large group prioritization, Idea Rating Sheets, also developed by Jason Diceman who is the key reference for this tool.

E2

Walkthrough

1. **Stick & cluster ideas on the wall**
Place all the ideas/options up on a wall, one idea per post-it. Have the group cluster similar ideas/options and remove any duplicates. The fewer options there are, the clearer and easier the voting will be.

2. **Vote**
The group will now vote on which options they think are best by using dots, made simply with a marker on the post-it. Each group member gets 5 dots to vote with (or less if there are less options). These dots can be distributed in any way: one dot each to five different ideas, all five dots to one idea, etc.

3. **Select the best option**
Once all members have distributed their dots, the group could proceed in a variety of ways:

- *Simply choosing the option/s that received the most dots.*

- *Conducting an open dialogue about the prioritization. Exploring which ideas got more dots, which got less, what the next steps should be.*

- *Organise the ideas on a line from most to least dots, then discuss their relative merits.*

! **DOs, DON'Ts & BE AWARE**

✓ Check that all options on the wall are clear to all participants. Run through them all if necessary.

✓ You can have variations on the way to vote. You can use the way suggested or you can have higher differences and assign 3 dots to the most important idea, 2 dots to the second one and 3 to the third one for instance. More than 1 idea per slide

! If you need to avoid peer "pressure" run an intermediate step between 1 and 2 where people write their own ranking of the most important clusters on a scrap of paper before voting

! Be aware of "vote splitting" where a weaker option might win due to several stronger but very similar ideas receiving shares of the same vote.

! Also be wary of the "bandwagon effect", where people who vote later may be influenced by votes that have already been place.

! You are the message, the presentation is just a visual support