

The Historygram Process

This process gives the entire community an opportunity to view the number and types of changes that have occurred and gives people a chance to take the best parts of the past with them as they move into a new, uncertain future.

Benefits

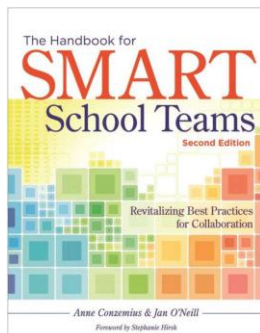
- People feel appreciated for their experience, wisdom and perspectives
- Changes are informed by what has and hasn't worked in the past and why

Materials needed

- Multiple colors of flipchart markers, tape, or self-stick chart paper
- Large pieces of shelf, butcher, tagboard, or foam core
- Magazines (optional)
- Photos (optional)
- Scissors (optional)
- Large (5 X 7) index cards

Process

1. Bring together a diverse group representing many parts of the community. Include people who have been around a long time as well as those who have recently joined the community.
2. Group people according to when they came to the community. Call these "eras".
3. Have each group develop storyboards showing the following information from their era:
 - a. Major initiatives and their goals
 - b. Major crises or turning points
 - c. Symbols, ceremonies, and traditions
 - d. What was happening in the world
 - e. What was happening in the community
 - f. A name or title for the era
 - g. Values they want to take from that era into the future
4. Have each group share its storyboard.
5. Capture the values separately so they can be developed as part of the vision for the community's future.
6. Have the group as a whole summarize the learning by identifying themes, patterns, and cycles that have made up the community's history. Identify patterns they want to continue or stop.



For more on the Historygram Process see pages 233 through 235 of *The Handbook for SMART School Teams (Second Edition): Revitalizing Best Practices for Collaboration*.