
Process Mapping

Purpose of the Tool

Sometimes it's helpful to imagine the implementation of an innovation as a process. Articulating the various steps of the process can help to get everyone on the same page in terms of their thinking, and can also draw out points of confusion or point to follow-up conversations that will be important to have in advance of implementation. Visualizing your thinking by drawing and diagramming can also lead to new ideas.

PILOT-TESTING

Suggested Time Commitment



You will probably need at least an hour to engage in this activity, and you will likely return to this activity throughout your innovation process.

When & How

If you already have a tool, resource, or discrete experience that you envision as part of your innovation project, take a step back and think about the process that might be required to provide scaffolding and support for introducing the innovation into your teaching and learning context.

Steps

1. Imagine your process

Imagine a process that you want to design. List all the steps of the process.

2. Try it out!

Map out your process. Consider questions such as:

- What happens in each step of the process, and who are the people involved?
- How are the steps arranged in relation to each other (Do they connect to each other in a particular way? Are they arranged in a certain order? Is arriving at one step dependent on what happens in another?)?
- What does the sequence of the steps look like? Is it cyclical? Linear? Branching? Stepwise? Without structure? A combination?

3. Think about efficiency

Look at your process with your study group, then discuss how you might make the process more efficient, effective, equitable, or enjoyable.

4. Try it again!

Revise or revamp your process map based on your conversation. Consider which parts of the process you'll need to develop in order to do some initial testing, keeping in mind that you might not need to develop every step before trying out your innovation for the first time!