



YOU PART

Engage. Connect. Empower

CARD SORTING

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CARD SORTING

FACTS

Age of participants: 18-30

Number of participants: 5-30 people

Duration: 60 minutes

GOALS

The card sorting method aims to:

- help to understand how individuals prioritize and organize information;
- explore what motivates individuals the most;
- discover how individuals feel about the different concepts and ideas;
- support people in tailoring practices and solutions in accordance with their needs.

TOPICS

The card sorting method involves introducing a set of pre-prepared cards to an activity's participants. These cards contain concepts, information, or items. Then, participants are asked to organize or prioritize them into groups according to their preferences. This helps to understand their motivation, preferences, and what they value most.

Through a card sorting activity, participants have the opportunity to express their real needs and preferences, while the facilitator gains useful insights to help design solutions based on their needs. The method is most commonly used by web designers to understand users' needs and preferences in order to design effective and engaging websites or platforms, but it is such an engaging method that it can be used to explore any individual's needs and priorities.

There are three different types of card sorting:

- **Open** card sort: Participants sort cards and label each category themselves.
- Closed card sort: Participants sort cards into the categories provided to them by a facilitator.
- Hybrid card sort: Participants can sort cards into pre-set categories and then sort them also into categories that they suggest.

The activity can be implemented either online or offline by using interactive tools or printed cards respectively.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR THE FACILITATOR

The card sorting method, when applied to the process of citizenship education, can provide valuable information for both the participants and the facilitator. On the participants' side, it will enhance their understanding of civic values, government structures, democratic principles, and historical events. At the same time, the activity develops critical thinking, problem-solving, and analytical skills. On the facilitator's side, it will explore the participants' priorities and ways of organizing information.

MATERIALS

If the activity is implemented **offline**:

- Printed cards or post-it notes
- Category cards
- Notepads
- Pens
- Workspace

If the activity is implemented **online**:

- Laptop or tablets
- Online interactive tools
- Digital cards
- Stable Wi-fi connection

PREPARATIONS

To be prepared for an activity based on the card sorting method, the facilitator should consider the following steps:

1. familiarize yourself with the activity and its objectives.
2. get informed about the concepts of citizenship education and active participation.
3. decide whether you are going to implement it online or by physical presence.
4. select the type of card sorting they want to practice and be sure that the type of card sorting is aligned with your objectives in order to gather relevant data .
5. decide the topic of the activity (for example, historical events in Europe that enhance active participation).
6. prepare the list of concepts (suggestion: you can include up to 50 topics in your list).
7. test the available online/offline the tools.
8. prepare the working place.

INSTRUCTIONS

Step 1 - introduction (~10')

The first step is to welcome the participants and introduce them to the activity's purposes and steps. Do not forget to highlight that there are no right or wrong answers. Then, present the materials or online tools.

If you are going to implement the activity with online tools, a free online tool is [Miro!](#)

Step 2 – present the topics (~5')

Provide the participants with the cards/post-it notes, each briefly describing the topic. Make sure that each one highlights the key purpose of this. Then, present the categories into which you would like the participants to sort the cards.

For example, if the topic is “Historical events that took place in Europe during the last years”, present cards that each shortly describes what happened. Some suggested topics could be: protests for climate change, youth-led activism, women’s protests for gender equality, etc. while some suggested categories could be: democratic values, human rights, environmental sustainability, active response to a crisis, and civic literacy.

If you are going to implement the activity physically, then you can use the templates below.

Step 3 – card sorting process (~30')

Guide the participants to review the cards and sort them into each category based on their primary purpose. Promote critical thinking and encourage discussions during the storing process. During this phase, observe their decision-making process.

After the participants have categorized the facts, you can suggest prioritizing them on their own based on which fact they consider as the most important and promoting active participation, thus implementing the hybrid card sort type.

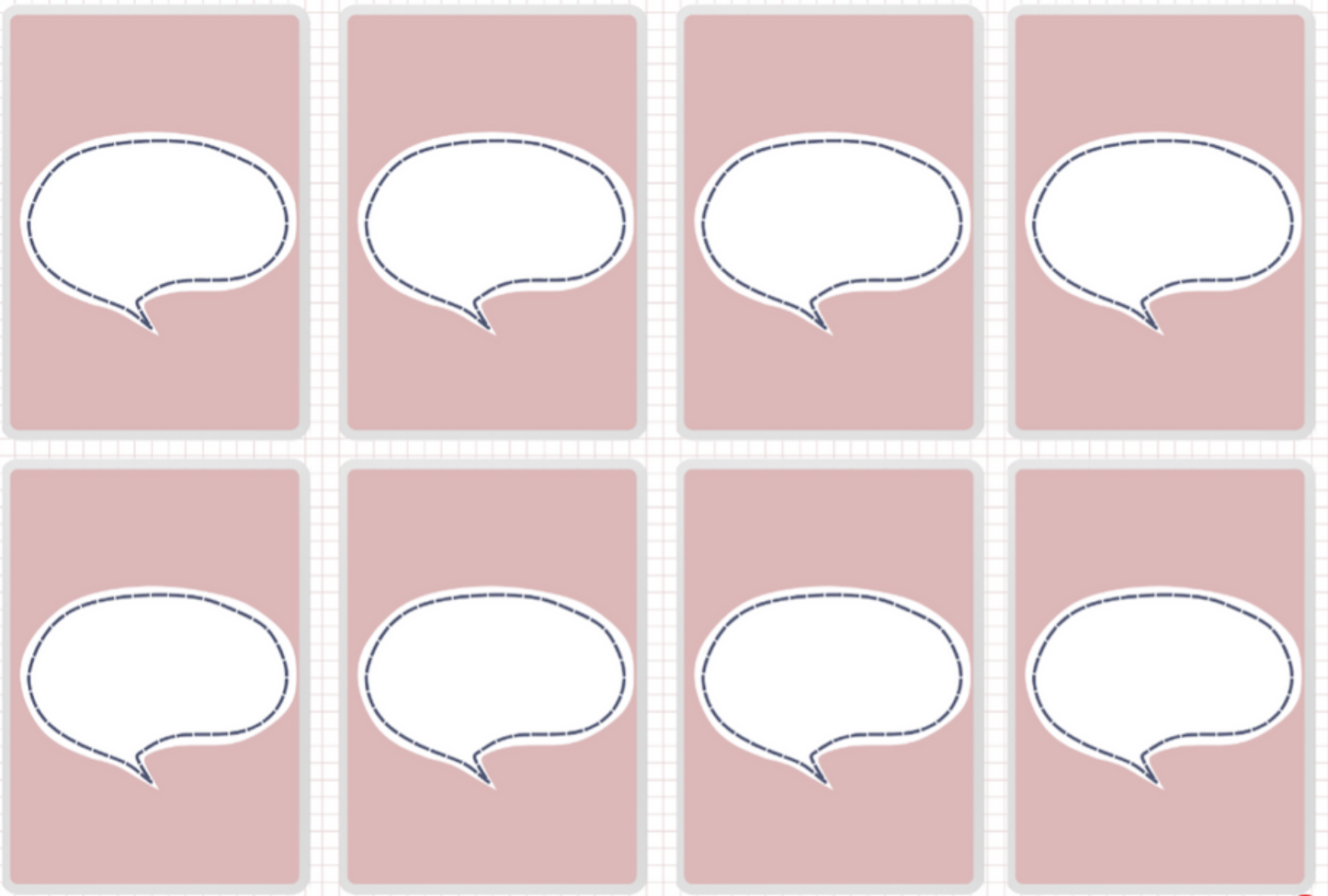
Step 4 – group discussion (~10')

The fourth step is about facilitating a group discussion that allows the participants to share their thoughts on the way they sorted the cards.

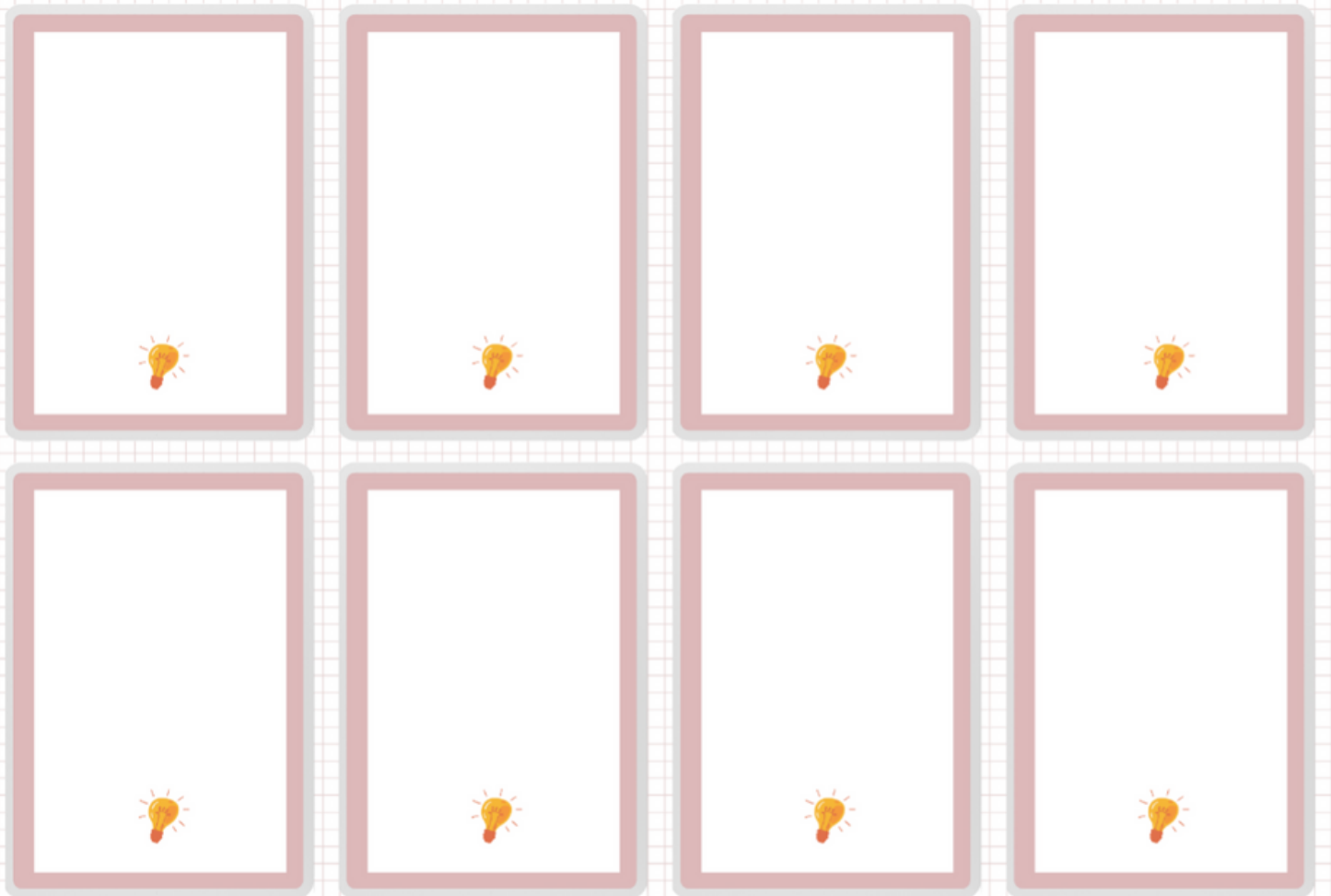
In the case of discussing historical facts, you can guide the participants to make connections between the facts of the categories. For example, what do the facts that have been sorted into the category of gender equality have in common?

Step 5 – analysis (~10')

The last step is to analyse the results of the process in order to identify thinking patterns and connections that the participants may have made.



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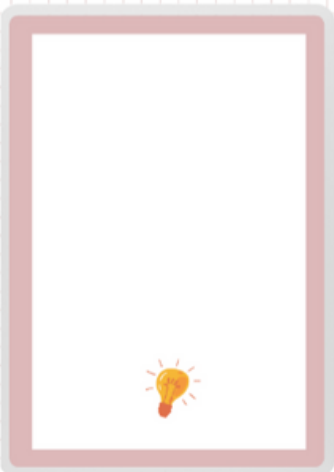
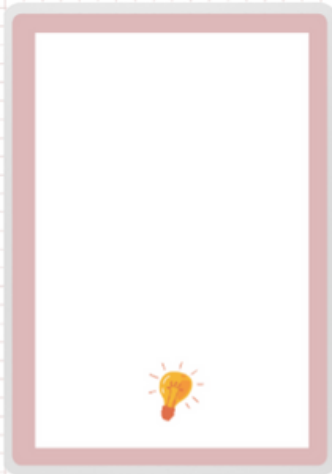
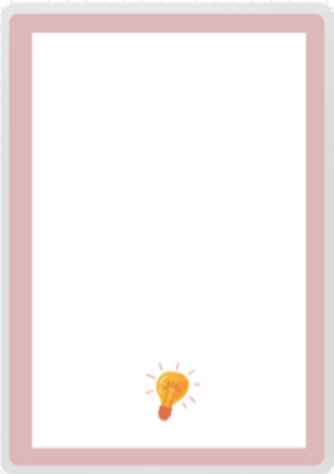
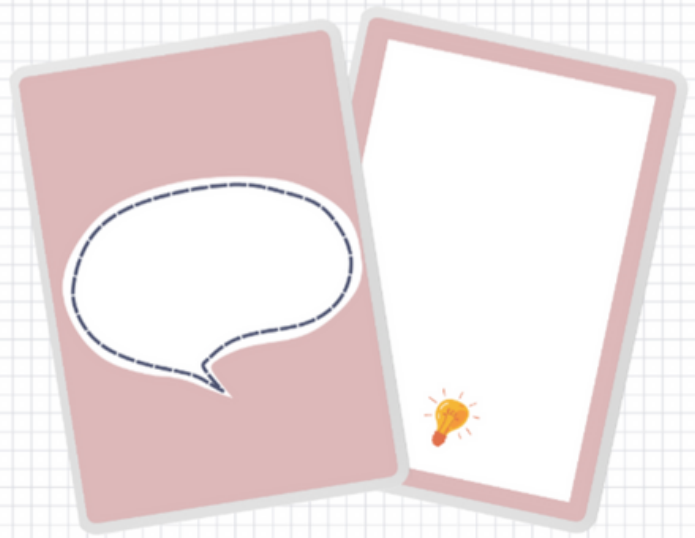


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Instructions

1. Print the cards
2. On the front side of the cards write a short title about the topic you want to discuss
3. On the back side of the card briefly describe the fact (optional)
4. Crop the cards
5. Stick both sides together (optional)





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PROJECT PARTNERS



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