

Postcards Protocol

The facilitator says, “Without looking at it first, deal yourself one of the picture postcards from this pack going around. Then imagine why it’s the perfect picture for you at this moment (or how it represents your work, or describes your feelings about starting or ending the workshop). Be prepared to show and tell.”

We especially like to use black-and-white “art” cards, because they lend themselves to interpretation. A variation is to have people find the person with the same card (provided there are duplicates available) and discuss their different reactions. Given a smaller supply of postcards, the facilitator might ask two or three people to share the same card. We have also asked participants in a meeting to use their laptops or smart phones to access some trove of online images, and to find one that speaks to them at that moment relative to the meeting getting started.

The activity ends with a Go-Round, in which everybody has a minute to share.

(From *The power of protocols* (2013), by McDonald, Mohr, Dichter and McDonald)