

Liberating Structures

Phase	Type	Themes
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Early <input type="checkbox"/> Implementation <input type="checkbox"/> Consolidation	<input type="checkbox"/> Strategy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tool	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Collaboration & teamwork <input type="checkbox"/> Curriculum <input type="checkbox"/> Design affordances <input type="checkbox"/> Design & process <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Evaluation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Leadership & change <input type="checkbox"/> Pedagogy
		<input type="checkbox"/> Professional development & support <input type="checkbox"/> School structures & organisation <input type="checkbox"/> Spatial competencies <input type="checkbox"/> Student experience <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Teacher experience <input type="checkbox"/> Technology <input type="checkbox"/> Time

What does this do?

Liberating Structures (LS) is a suite of 33 nonconventional ways of organising routine interactions of groups that work together. LS complement traditional practices, such as presentations, managed discussions, open discussions, status reports and brainstorm sessions. However, they are also designed to disrupt these more constraining approaches. It offers a way to foster lively participation and inclusion in groups regardless of size and across a variety of contexts.

How can it help?

Liberating Structures are practical and easy to learn micro-structures that educators can apply in their learning spaces. Educators can choose one or more structures that suit the learning activities that involve group interaction. Each Liberating Structure includes a 'how space is arranged and materials needed' section to guide educators on the spatial and material requirements for implementing the structure.

An example in practice

An educator focusing on exploring future career ideas with students can use the structure "Celebrity Interview". Five students act as celebrities who will go on a talk show type of TV interview hosted by another student. In preparation for the show, the class is divided into six groups, with five groups representing a selected future career and one group representing the talk show host. Members of each future career group then work together to conduct research and learn as much as they can about their selected career. The talk show host group will develop a set of questions they will ask the "celebrities". They can use resources inside and outside the school to gather information. One student from each future career group is then chosen to do the interview with a student acting as the talk show host. On the day of the "show" the learning space is arranged to simulate a studio for a talk show. The "celebrities" are on stage while the "host" sits with them or walks around the learning space while conducting the interview. The rest of the class participate as "studio audience". Although the host initiates the discussion, members of the audience can also ask questions from the celebrities.

Where can I find this?!

Liberating Structures and related resources are available via <http://www.liberatingstructures.com/ls-menu/>

[Correct as at 05 May 2020].

1. All Spatial Transition Pathway 'Strategies and Tools' are licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-Non Commercial 4.0 International License and available from iletc.com.au

Liberating Structures Menu

Five conventional structures guide the way we organize routine interactions and how groups work together: presentations, managed discussions, open discussions, status reports and brainstorm sessions. Liberating Structures add 33 more options to the big five conventional approaches.

“ Any one LS can change a meeting. Together they can liberate and transform an entire organization.”

The menu below represents version 2.2 of Liberating Structures. If you are new to LS, we recommend that you start practicing with the simplest (e.g., 1-2-4-All, Impromptu Networking), starting from the top left and moving to the most intricate at the bottom right (Pararchy, Purpose-To-Practice). The more intricate methods use many of the simpler LS as building blocks. Read [Microstructures & Design Elements](#) to learn more about how they work. [Click on any Liberating Structure below.](#)

						
						
						
						
						
						

