

Diamond Ranking

Description of Tool (what is it for and why?)

Diamond ranking is a thinking skills tool designed to facilitate talk and encourage people to consider their values on a given topic. Traditionally this activity involves the ranking of nine written statements according to a range of criteria (e.g. most important, most interesting etc.), but asking people to rank photographs also opens up discussion and can build shared understanding. Ranking photographs when thinking about school space has particular resonance, encouraging people to think about their relationship to the physical space and how this in turn relates to their beliefs about learning and teaching. The same images and activity can be used to facilitate discussion between diverse groups within the school.

Diamond ranking can be used in two distinct ways, either to establish people's existing experiences and understandings of the learning environment, or to begin to explore alternatives. The method has been used across a number of cultures and countries by academic researchers and teachers interested in school users' views of learning environments and practices, sometimes to inform the redesign of space.



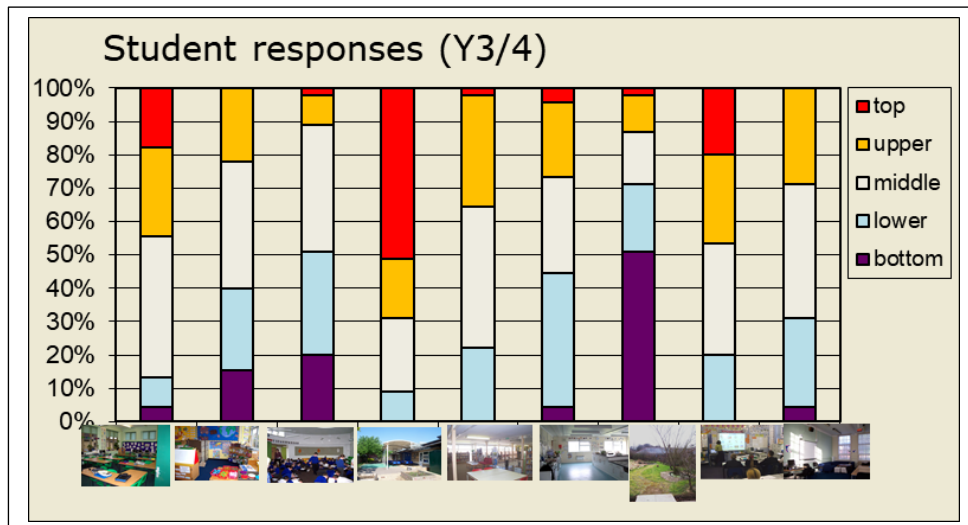
Tool instructions (how to do it)

The first step is to organise a set of nine images representing a range of learning environments. If you want to support school users to discover what they know about their existing setting then the photographs should be of the participants' actual physical environment – create a set that includes a range of spaces relevant to the ranking criterion. Alternatively, to help participants to discuss less tangible aspects, including their beliefs about learning and physical space, and to consider changes, use photographs of a range of different spaces that will stimulate more general discussion.

Sets of images to use for this activity can be found on this page or if you want to create some bespoke sets, you can find a variety of images in our library.

Tool instructions (how to analyse it)

The downloadable Excel spreadsheet on this page will create the stacked bar chart seen here:



Additional resources

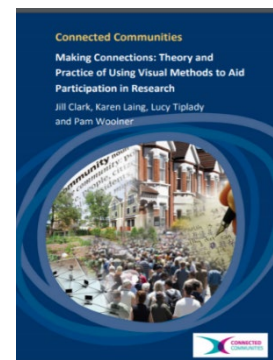
A 'how-to' guide to using visual methods, including diamond ranking, to widen participation in research:

<https://www.ncl.ac.uk/media/wwwnclacuk/cflat/files/making-connections.pdf>

Short piece on the benefits of user participation in school design:

<https://theconversation.com/pupils-and-teachers-should-get-a-say-in-how-to-spend-2bn-for-building-new-schools-27357>

Academic article describing changing pedagogy and space in two UK schools: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10833-018-9317-4>



Project web link: coming soon

Social media: @PamWoolner on Twitter #CollaborativeReDesignwithSchools #DiamondRank

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Profile: <https://www.ncl.ac.uk/ecls/staff/profile/pamelawoolner.html#background>



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