THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
Faculty of Education

Master of Educational Technology Program



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Inclusive Makerspace - Mentorship Maps

Tracing learning through stories, relationships, and experiences

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Overview of the challenge

The Mentorship Map inclusive makerspace challenge is a reflective activity where participants create a visual map - digitally or physically - to explore the mentors who have influenced their lives, skills, and perspectives. Participants will identify key mentors across different areas of their life - such as community, school, and/or career - and examine how these relationships have shaped their growth, values, sense of belonging, and sense of purpose. Participants will reflect on their mentorship relationships using the Wheel of Power / Privilege to explore how identity and systems of oppression might impact their mentorship relationships.

Rooted in the principles of “building relational trust” and “practicing self-awareness” from Liberatory Design, the challenge encourages participants to reflect on their own identities and experiences, fostering a deep understanding of mentorship as a relational, lifelong journey. Additionally aligned with the First Peoples Principles of Learning, the activity emphasizes holistic well-being, connectedness, and respect for knowledge as something shared between people and even across generations.

Materials and Resources Required

MATERIALS

Digital option: Access to digital tools like Canva, Miro, Mural, or Google Slides for creating a digital mentorship map.

Options for creating a digital mentorship map:

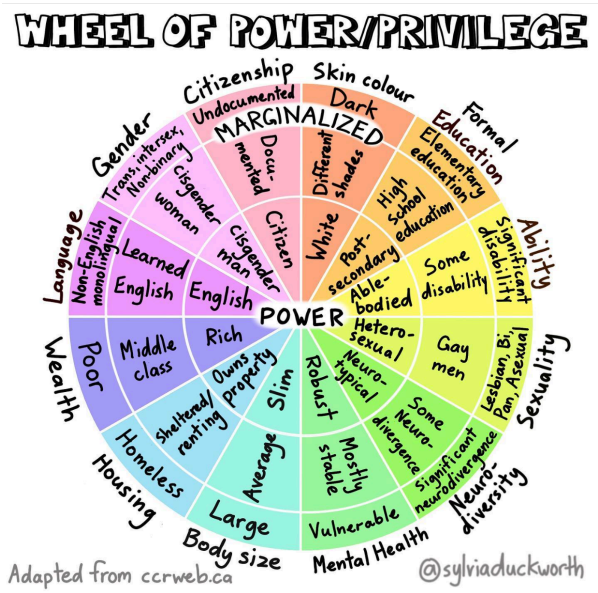
Canva	Mural

Miro	Google Slides
Padlet	MindMeister

Physical option: Large sheets of paper (e.g. chart paper) and a variety of art supplies such as markers, coloured pencils, post-it notes, stickers, string, tape, etc.

RESOURCES:

MET Anti-Racism Speaker Series: Transformational Practices Through An Indigenous Lens *Listen to 23:05 to 26:11 for focus on experiential learning & mentorship as learning experiences*	

[Liberatory Design Model: mindsets & modes to design for equity]	
[First Peoples Principles of Learning]	
[Wheel of Power / Privilege] 	

Inclusive Maker Challenge Instructions

Step 1: Reflect on your mentors

1A: Identify Key Mentors

Think about 3-5 people who have played a significant role as mentors in your life. These could be community or family members, teachers, coaches, colleagues, or any informal guides who have influenced your personal, academic, and/or career journey.

1B: Reflect on each mentor's impact

For each mentor, consider the specific lessons or values they imparted, memorable experiences, and their lasting impact on your development and growth.

1C: Consider identity

Think about how aspects of your identity (like culture, background, language, or values) may have influenced these mentorship relationships. Reflect on how your experiences with these mentors connect to your current values, skills, and perspectives.

Step 2: Make your map

2A: Choose a medium

Choose the format of your mentorship map. Based on available resources and your preferences, decide if you will make a mentorship map using a digital tool or with physical materials.

2B: Create your mentorship map

Layout options:

- Organize your mentors in a way that feels meaningful. You might choose a chronological path, group mentors by theme (e.g., personal growth, academic guidance), or design a circular layout to show interconnectedness.

Add images and words:

- Use symbols, icons, or drawings to represent each mentor's influence. Consider adding brief stories or phrases that capture the essence of each relationship.

Highlight key lessons:

- Next to each mentor, include keywords or images that reflect the most important lessons, values, or experiences they shared with you.

Step 3: Reflect on your map using the Wheel of Power / Privilege

3A: Reflect on power and privilege

Using the Wheel of Power / Privilege as a guide, take some time to consider the dynamics of power and privilege in each of the mentorship relationships you've highlighted in your mentorship map. Identify which identities you share with your mentors and which differ.

3B: Consider the impact of similarities and differences

Reflect on how these shared or different identities may have shaped the mentorship experience.

- Did any differences challenge or enrich your perspective?
- Did similarities create a sense of comfort or ease in communication?

Step 4: Share your map

Share your mentorship map with your peers. Ask each other reflection questions to learn more about each others' mentorship experiences.

Reflection questions:

- How did mapping this out and reflecting using the Wheel of Power / Privilege help you view your mentorship relationships differently?
- What about these mentors and their approach to mentorship made you feel comfortable and supported?
- Are there aspects of these relationships you would want to replicate as a mentor yourself, either now or in the future?

Challenge Objectives

During this activity, participants will:

- Identify their mentors and create a visual representation of their mentorship relationships.
- Reflect on the role of mentorship relationships in their personal growth and identity exploration.
- Apply the concept of power and privilege to mentorship experiences.

Critical Questions for Consideration

- How might this reflection on mentorship change your approach to learning in other areas?
- In what ways does exploring the qualities of effective mentorship inform how you might approach guiding others as a mentor?
- What role does power and privilege play in mentorship relationships?
- How does examining power and privilege in mentorship relationships impact your understanding of these concepts and their application to real-world experiences?

Background / Additional Information

MET Anti-Racism Speaker Series: Transformational Practices Through An Indigenous Lens *Review the entire interview, not just the small section identified above in "Resources".*	

Learn more about the Liberatory Design Model	
Video explainer of Sylvia Duckworth's Wheel of Power / Privilege	

Inclusivity Focus

This challenge draws on two Liberatory Design Mindsets from the **Liberatory Design Model**:

1. Building Relationship Trust mindset

Summary of this mindset: Investing in relationships with intention, particularly across differences. By honoring stories and practicing empathetic listening, people build the relational trust that is crucial to authentic learning and collaboration.

This challenge integrates the "building relational trust" mindset by encouraging participants to reflect on their mentorship journeys through storytelling visually. Participants honour the contributions of their mentors, recalling the support these relationships provided. By sharing their mentorship maps with each other, the challenge fosters a supportive environment for participants to share experiences through storytelling and practice non-judgemental listening when hearing others' stories.

2. Practicing Self-Awareness mindset

Summary of this mindset: Recognizing that who we are shapes how we relate to others and learn from them. By examining our identities and acknowledging biases, we can approach relationships with humility, curiosity, and courage.

The challenge uses the “practicing self-awareness” mindset by encouraging participants to identify how mentorship has shaped their values, skills, and even perspectives over time. This process of connecting their present self to the influence of past mentors deepens self-awareness and highlights personal growth. This challenge fosters intentional, reflective practice by prompting participants to step back and view their relationships through a lens of what they’ve learned from those individuals and connections.

Additionally, this challenge aligns closely with the **First Peoples Principles of Learning**, which emphasize learning as a holistic, relational, and lifelong process. In particular, the activity emphasizes experiential and relational learning, where mentorship is understood as shared experiences, memories, and a sense of belonging rather than solely knowledge transfer. By considering generational roles and identity, participants can connect deeply with the lessons and values imparted by their mentors, exploring how these relationships contribute to their evolving sense of self and purpose. Through storytelling and careful reflection, the challenge honors memory and the patience of learning over time. Ultimately, this challenge invites participants to see mentorship as an interconnected, respectful exchange of wisdom that spans beyond the self and into community and culture.

No-tech, Low-Tech, High-Tech Options

No tech options	Use physical supplies to create the mentorship map. Paper, markers, post-it notes, note-cards, stickers, magazines, paint, etc. are all possible supplies.
Low tech options	Provide a printed template for participants to create their mentorship map on, such as a worksheet. Participants can print images to support their map creation.
High tech options	Participants choose a digital tool to create their maps, integrating text, images, symbols, etc. to design an online mentorship map. Maps could be interactive, depending on the digital tool chosen.

Extensions

This activity is appropriate for secondary school students, post-secondary school students, and adult learners.

Below are adaptations you might make based on the participant group:

Participant group	**Adaptations**
Secondary school	Paired with lessons relating to intersectionality, power, and privilege. Participants identify mentors from school, community or family, personal life, community, and extracurricular settings.
Post-secondary school	Paired with conversations / lessons relating to intersectionality, power, and privilege. Participants identify mentors to reflect on mentors at different life stages. Encourage participants to connect mentorship with their academic, volunteer / extracurricular, and current or future work experiences.
Adult learner	Participants can choose how many mentors to highlight in their mentorship map. If this is a workplace context, encourage participants to select mentors from their career to maintain appropriate work/life boundaries.