



BARRIERS TO LEARNING: A GROUP ACTIVITY*

▶ ABOUT THIS ACTIVITY

 **Time:** 15 minutes

 **Objectives:** By the end of this session, participants will be able to:

- Discuss barriers to learning and factors that can interfere with a person's ability and/or willingness to learn.


 **Training Method:** Brainstorm

 **In This Activity You Will...**

- Ask questions to stimulate group discussion (10 minutes).
- Summarize in a large group the barriers and how we can use this to develop teaching strategies with our clients (5 minutes).

 **Materials:**

- Newsprint
- Markers
- Tape

 **Preparation:** None

Instructions

1. Lead a group brainstorm. Write the groups' responses on newsprint to the following question:

What are examples of barriers to learning?

2. Explain to participants that many things can interfere with a person's willingness and/or ability to learn. The purpose of this brainstorm is to list any barriers that could hinder a person's learning while using peer services.

3. Likely responses include:

- Financial Troubles
- Stigma/shame
- Fear
- Literacy challenges
- Cultural differences between client and peer educator
- Substance abuse
- Language
- Mental health diagnosis/depression
- Attitudes about HIV/AIDS (e.g. fatalistic thinking)
- Beliefs about HIV/AIDS (e.g. fatalistic beliefs)
- Feelings of isolation
- General lack of interest

Summary

Wrap up session.

*This module is part of the online toolkit Building Blocks to Peer Success. For more information, visit http://www.hdwg.org/peer_center/training_toolkit. This module comes from the Missouri People to People Training Manual, 2008.