

Week 5

Failing is learning

This week focuses on helping learners to see failure and mistakes as helpful and necessary components of learning, instead of something to be avoided. This activity also gets learners to reflect a bit on the progress they've made in anticipation of the final Circle next week.

CHECK-IN (10 MIN)

- Recap last week's plus/delta
- **Stand-up:** what I worked on last week, what I am working on this week, and what I'll need help on.

ACTIVITY (15 MIN)

Sharing some of the mistakes and struggles with the coursework from the past weeks should help learners feel less pressure about always "knowing" the right answer and allow them to feel more comfortable asking peers for help.

- **First:** Prompt learners for a discussion about failure by reading the following:
 - This week we are going to talk about some failures we've had so far. In Learning Circles, failure is not bad; in fact, it is a guaranteed and inevitable part of learning. Just like toddlers fall when learning to walk, we will all experience failure as we grow as learners throughout our lives. If we really try to understand what we get wrong and overcome our failure, we can learn even more from our mistakes than from our successes.
- **Next:** Ask learners to take a couple of minutes to think about an example of a struggle or failure that they've come up against in the Learning Circle, what lesson they learned from that experience, and how they can imagine using that lesson going forward.
- **Finally:** Go around the room, sharing challenges and lessons learned. Try to focus less on the failure itself, and more on what was learned in overcoming it.

COURSEWORK (60 MIN)

- If some learners seemed like they hadn't resolved the failures they mentioned in the activity, see if another learner who knows the material is willing to help them out.
- Encourage learners to take some time reflecting on how much work they have left in the course and if they anticipate questions or challenges that they might want to bring up before the final Learning Circle.

PLUS/DELTA (5 MIN)

Ask learners to share one thing that went well for them today, and one thing that they would like to change for next week.

FEEDBACK (AFTERWARDS)

Send wrap up email to all the learners including a quick summary of the session, the plus/delta feedback, and anything else you want the learners to remember for next week.