

The Learning History

The Learning History shows the development of a network as a *Movie*. It adds analyses to important *scenes* in a Timeline by means of the networking tools, and joins all relevant elements together in a story.

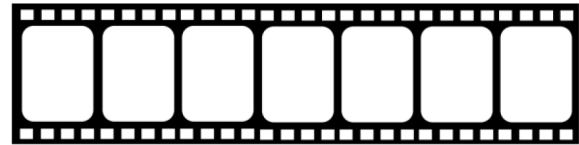
1. Select the most important scenes

The Timeline indicates what moments have been relevant. Clusters of Post It notes show what participants have found significant.

Cut the harvest of the Timeline in 4 – 10 parts that can be considered as scenes of a movie.

Give each scene a heading as in a newspaper.

This leads to the “...and then ... , and then ...” story.



Wrong headings: “Introduction”; “Targets”; etc..
Good examples: “Crisis leads to initiative”;
“Unexpected support”; “Finally success”. Etc.

The Timeline is a collection of statements, made by participants. If you can register narratives behind their statements, this is a valuable addition.

2. Describe per scene:

- <> What was the situation at the beginning?
- <> What were major developments?
- <> What did you do? (How did you intervene?)
- <> What effects have been observed?
- <> What was the situation in the end?

The result of this step is a narrative story of which all actors involved will say: “Yes, so it happened.”

3. Add your analysis

The Learning History method prescribes that the narrative story should be written on the right pages and the interpretations on the left ones. You can also put your analysis in textboxes.

Make your choice for the appropriate tool:

Involvement, for example:

- <> new actors are introduced, or actors back off
- <> actors change their position
- <> some connections are identified as missing links

Contents, for example:

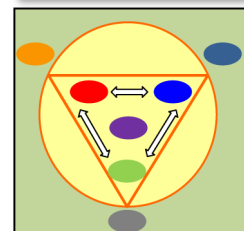
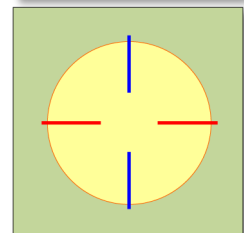
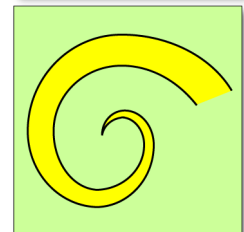
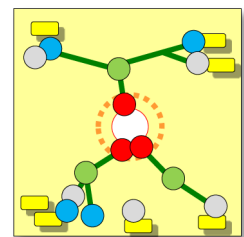
- <> from inspiration to planning; from development to realisation; etc..
- <> changing phase includes other actors to be activated.

Interaction, for example:

- <> attention shifts from activating supporters to negotiating with managers

Positions, for example:

- <> Energy in the network is fading. What did you do to reactivate the network?
- <> What connection calls for an intervention?



Questions for a specific case:

- [1] What scenes can be identified?
- [2] Describe the narrative story in such a way that all actors involved can agree.
- [3] Make your own analysis of each scene, and add it in a textbox.
- [4] What conclusions do you make for the next period?

Source:

Wielinga, H.E., Zaalmink, B.W. et al (2008): *Networks with Free Actors*. Wageningen University and Research.