

Method: Circle of Viewpoints

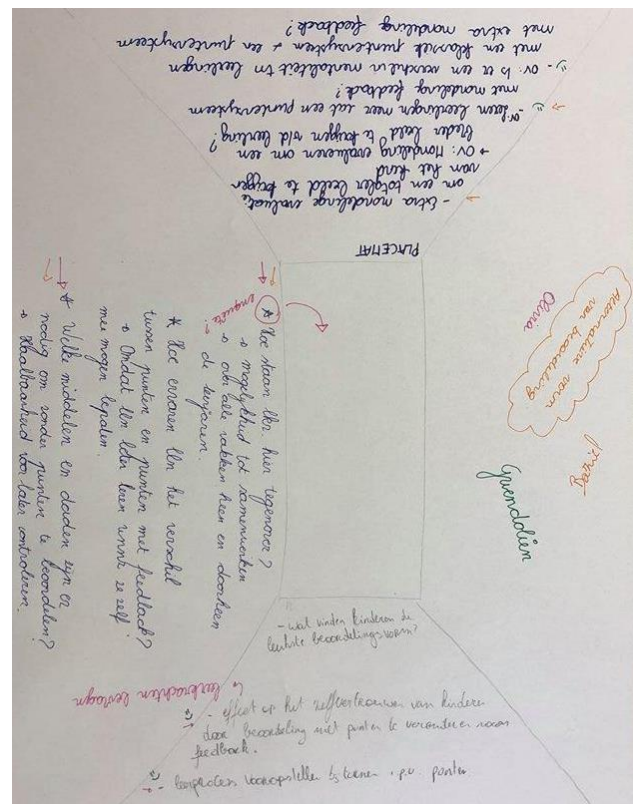
In UCLL, Karine Hindrix has been testing the Circle of Viewpoints in a course dealing with designing a practice based research project in Teacher Education. It was tested in two classes, each of which included about 25 students who were from the 2nd year Bachelor in Education, Primary Education.

The students are in the divergent thinking-phase of designing the research process: they have chosen a research theme and are brainstorming about different topics, issues and challenges to be researched. This exercise elaborates this thinking activity.

They just have listed as many stakeholders with interests in the subject area in education as possible in their mindmap.

Now I introduce the Circle of Viewpoints as the next step and here is what I do:

- I ask every student in the group to choose one stakeholder, taking into account that a stakeholder is only once chosen in the group
- Next, I asked the students to sympathize with the chosen stakeholder and to look at the subject through the eyes of this actor as follows:
 - I am thinking of the topic from the point of view of ... (describe the stakeholder)
 - I think ... (Be an actor - take on the character of your viewpoint)
 - A question I have from this viewpoint is ...
- I ask students to share their ideas in group
- Finally, we wrap up in a plenary session: What new ideas do you have about the topic that you didn't have before? What new questions do you have



Sample of way in which students represent their Circle of viewpoints

[Go to Circle of Viewpoints method](#)