



**Center for Leadership & Educational Equity**

## A Picture is Worth 1000 Words

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### **Purpose**

Allow participants to express their feelings about a project, concept, or implementation by using metaphor based on a picture. To be used as an opening activity as it allows for people to get their voice in the room, share from their own perspective, and prepare for the topic at hand.

### **Time**

15-30 minutes depending on the size of the group

### **Materials**

Collection of pictures from clip art, magazine clippings, etc. You can use 4-5 pictures or sets of 20-30 postcard sized or 5X7" sized pictures.

### **Process**

1. Give participants the prompt and time to make a decision regarding which picture best represents the concept. Emphasize that there are not right or wrong responses.
  - a. Prompt: Which one do you feel best describes \_\_\_\_\_. Why? Be prepared to share your feelings.
2. Using a round robin approach, have participants share their picture and their response. Depending on the size of the group, have participants share in small /table groups or with the whole group.

*Variation:* Post 4 different pictures in the corners of the room. Have participants choose the picture which most closely represents their feelings toward the concept. When they get to the corner, have them share why they chose that picture and why and then have a spokesperson from each corner summarize the group's discussion and feelings with the larger group.
3. Debrief the content
  - a. Make generalizations about similarities and differences of responses or ask participants for their impressions.
4. Debrief the process
  - a. How did the protocol help people transition and get their voice in the room?
  - b. How comfortable were you in sharing your feelings?
  - c. What would you change or how would you use this protocol with a group with whom you are working?