I like / I wish / I wonder Activity

Introduction

“What I Like / I Wish / I Wonder” is a design tool for generative critique. The key is that this method of critique is not simply aimed at pointing out flaws. Instead, it is used to imagine concrete possibilities and determine promising directions for improvement.

You can use this design tool by yourself or in groups to evaluate everything from a draft of a paper to a prototype of a physical product or event/experience to “So how am I doing in terms of keeping up with my personal goals this month?”

What is it?

Why use it?

What you need:

- 15-30 minutes
- The attached instructions
- 1 or more people
- Markers
- A large surface to write on such as
  - A whiteboard
  - Three large flip-pad pages
  - A Mural board or some other online collaborative space (if being done virtually).
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Instructions

Step 1: Create three writing spaces
Start by creating a space for three sections. If you’re completing the activity with a group, this could be a whiteboard divided up into three sections, three large pieces of chart paper posted around the room, or even a shared, digital workspace like a Google Doc or Mural board, if completing this activity virtually. As an individual, consider journaling your ideas or using one of the digital workspaces to keep a record of your responses.

Step 2: Label each section
Each of the three sections should be labeled respectively, “I Like”, “I Wish”, and “I Wonder”.

Step 3: Brainstorm and write down answers
Give yourself or a group a time limit to complete this activity to prompt creative thinking and spark new ideas. Remember there are no wrong answers with this activity or constraints to consider, simply imagine all of the possibilities - big or small, manageable or wild, boring or fun.

Step 4: Review and analyze
As an individual or group, review the responses and ideas from all three sections. Look for any themes or insights that could serve as inspiration for imagining the possibilities of what’s next.