

## Using Comic Life for evaluation

*Lead Scotland: Example of using [comic life](#) to evaluate with a group of disabled people who had been participating in an ICT class, (which had integrated literacies support).*

During the course reviews and the snapshot evaluations at the end of each session it was noticed that participants tended to say “great” to everything and or “yes”, “no” or “don’t know” to questions asked, including open questions. We wanted to have an evaluation which would encourage them to tell us what they liked and how they felt about the course, with a little more individuality in their responses.

1. Pictures were laid out (conveying a variety of emotions, working in groups, working at home, parts of the computer and internet) to represent **what they had been doing** and emotions to consider **how they might have felt** about the course.
2. Someone who hadn’t worked with the group (for a little objectivity) then asked people individually to choose 3 pictures (one at a time) then sit in front of a computer holding up the image for a photo to be taken via the webcam.
3. They had a quick chat about why they picked the image and agreed a sentence to be written next to the photo.
4. The photos and text were quickly and easily transferred into the Comic Life programme to create an instant and personalised A4 storyboard.
5. It was printed out immediately and each participant received a copy of the evaluation for their folder.

### Advantages:

- It’s quick and fun. Participants had heard of a webcam but hadn’t seen one in action. Each person had a dry run with the webcam to see how it worked. I demonstrated by taking my own picture so people could see how it worked.
- It’s like a storyboard so the concept is relatively easy to get to grips with.
- People selected different pictures and reasons and the results were varied suggesting people got different things from the course and the experience. The other monitoring and evaluation tools had not brought out this diversity.

### Disadvantages:

- One person didn’t want their picture to be taken, but they agreed to hold up the image to the webcam and hid behind it.
- It wasn’t fully (technically) accessible to the participant as there would have been a learning curve to take the photo themselves in comic life then place into the box, same for the text. But this may be possible with different individuals. The Training and Development Officer did that bit.
- It’s not very scientific but does give evidence towards soft outcomes.

The following four examples illustrate the method:

I liked meeting other people



the course is brilliant

I felt brilliant!



I liked using the mouse and I have one at home



the course is good and nice

I liked everyone in the group - nice group



I made new friends



the course is great

I liked the support



Good notes - make you comfortable - not scared to ask anything



the course wasn't too hard - nice and slow. My first time using a

hadn't used a keyboard before

