WORKING WITH IMAGES/POSTCARDS/QUOTES

Purpose	This technique is especially well-suited for the beginning or end of a seminar or workshop. Students can comment on their own experience or their ideas with the help of images, postcards, or quotes. In addition, the activity allows students to tap into their creative potential by asking them to make imaginative associations. At the very beginning of a class, instructors can use images, postcards, or quotes as an icebreaker or introductory activity, or to develop a sense of student expectations. It can help students feel more comfortable in class or get a first impression of the topic under discussion. At the end of a seminar, the activity allows students to share individual reflections or evaluations.
Directions	The pictures, postcards, or quotes are placed on the floor in the middle of the room. They must be big enough to be easily visible/readable while sitting or standing. Students are asked to select one image or quote that: — is especially appealing to them — they think has something to do with them or the topic — portrays something they want to discuss with the group …
Parameters	Group size: 30 people max. Time required: ca. 1 min. per person Setup: ideally sitting in a circle, with enough space in the middle Materials: postcards, images, pictures (taken from newspapers, magazines, etc.), quotes
Helpful Tips	To provide a good amount of choice, instructors should provide at least twice as many images/postcards/quotes as there are students. Students are allowed to choose a card that has been chosen before but must provide their own commentary. Variation: The strategy can also be used with slight variations. For example, only a few images/postcards/quotes can be provided, and students can be asked to select the one image/postcard/quote that most appeals to them in the context of a specific question. Subsequently, the small groups that have formed around each picture/postcard/quote can be asked to exchange ideas about their different associations (purpose: connecting with a topic).
Online Implementation	— The images, postcards, or quotes can be presented on a single slide or notepad via padlet.com oder in heiCONF. For group discussions, participants can be placed into breakout rooms.

Adapted from:
Knoll, J. (1999). *Kurs- und Seminarmethoden: Ein Trainingsbuch zur Gestaltung von Kursen und Seminaren, Arbeits- und Gesprächskreisen* (8th ed.). Weinheim: Beltz Verlag.