



Skill spotting in pairs/small groups

Instructions

Person one is ‘the speaker’ and needs to pick a research output or research “thing” they want to talk about to have person two (‘the listener’) identify or spot the skills they’ve used.

Person two is ‘the listener’ and will carefully listen to what Person one describes and try to unpack all of the skills involved in achieving this.

Prompt questions if you think Person one ‘the speaker’ may be glossing over some of their skills;

- Tell me more about that?
- Did everything go as expected? Did everything go to plan?
- What did that entail?
- Who did that involve? What did that involve?

If you’re in small groups rather than pairs the other people can keep time, moderate if ‘the listener’ asks too many questions or help ‘the listener’ in skill spotting.

Time: Person one ‘the speaker’ talks for 4 minutes, with Person two ‘the listener’ spotting skills. There is 1 minute for Person two to go through the skills they identified (and any constructive feedback) for Person one. Person one and two swap roles and repeat the exercise.





Skill spotting sheet for Person 2 ‘the listener’ to use

Analytical thinking	Technical skill/expertise	Dependability	Attention to detail
Creativity/ creative thinking	Resilience	Flexibility/adaptable	Motivation
Self-awareness	Curiosity	Leadership	Empathy
Communication	Lifelong learning/ willingness to learn	Humour	Problem solving/critical thinking
Project/time management	Analysis/data analysis/ analytical thinking	Research presented/ communicated to non-specialist audience/public	Networking
Collaboration/team working	Development/ skills gap identification	Taking on responsibility/ independence	Entrepreneurship

(some skills mostly picked from <https://eurodoc.net/news/2018/press-release-eurodoc-report-on-transferable-skills-and-competences> and <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2023/05/future-of-jobs-2023-skills/>)

Any other comments or skills spotted?

Any constructive feedback? (Perhaps you noticed things like did ‘the speaker’ use any phrases repeatedly glossing over or underselling their skills?)

