Using word clouds in the classroom

Word clouds are a simple and fun way to get students thinking about their volunteering experience. It can be a great way to monitor how each student uses their own growth mindset.

**How it works**

Word clouds create a visual image based on a set of text. The more times a word appears in the text, the bigger the word appears in the word cloud.

**Word clouds for pre and post assessment**

Show your students a few examples of word clouds so they understand the concept (the bigger the word, the more important it is). Ask them to help you create a word cloud about volunteering. This is a good way for you to learn what your students already know.

You can ask them prompting questions like:

* What is giving?
* What is volunteering?
* Is there a difference between the two?
* What are the positives of volunteering?
* What is my current role in my community?
* How am I currently involved in my community?

At the end of the volunteer experience ask your students to answer the same questions.

You can compare the old and new word clouds to see how they’ve changed.

**Word cloud makers**

Take all the words your students list and put them into one of the many free online tools. Some examples are:

* Wordle
* Tagxedo
* Tagul
* WordArt
* Wordsift