

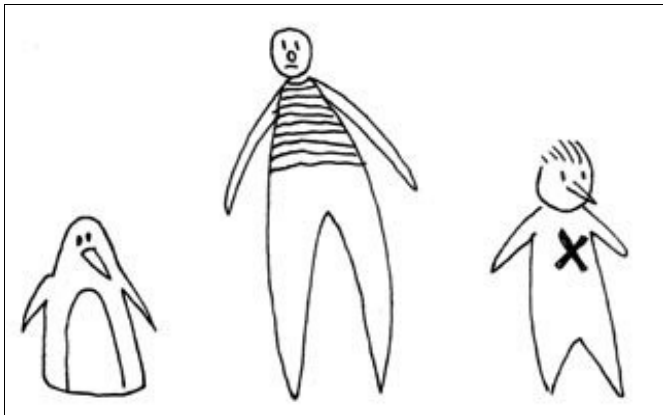
Panel Lottery

An activity by Jessica Abel and Matt Madden

Phase 1:

Draw a few random comics panels on index cards (or equivalent) using the following guidelines. (They should not tell a story). Our goal is to produce a big pile of random, unrelated (except for the characters) comics panels.

1. Use any of the following characters:



...or invent your own.

2. Choose any one or more of the following instructions and use them as the starting point for your panel:

- Somebody asking a question (no answer).
- Somebody answering a question (no question).
- Somebody walking through a doorway.
- Somebody looking out of the panel with a surprised expression.
- A punch or kick.
- Somebody looking for someone or something.
- A panel with no people in it.
- A landscape with a single building in it.
- A panel full of sound effects and/or emanata.

3. When you finish your panel put it in the closed box or envelope provided.

4. The original instructions of Abel and Madden say at this point: "Have a beer." But since no drinks or other liquids are allowed in the Collaboratory, we'll just skip that step.

Phase 2

1. Remove the panels from the box. Select one panel and stick it on the wall (or lay it on a large table). You can pick a random panel or choose one that seems like a good starting point. (The instructor or a volunteer will complete this and the next step.)
2. Distribute the remaining cards in the box to the class.
3. After reading the starter panel and consulting the panels they have, anyone who has a panel that would be a good second panel should raise their hand. Those people will put their panels up next to the starter panel. The group will then vote on which panel works the best. Discuss why certain panels work and others don't or why you prefer one over another.
4. The group will proceed in this way until everyone has had a chance to post a panel. At that point, discuss as a group whether the strip is finished and, if not, ask for either an existing panel that might finish the strip OR a new panel someone might propose and draw on the spot. Also ask whether anyone has panels they think should be added (or taken away) to make the strip better.
5. Repeat as desired.