DWeb for Creators

Session 7. Activity Guide

Decentralization: Sovereignty, Power, and Critical Practice in Dweb

Session Miro board

Session Agenda (150 mins)

09:30: Introduction: Co-Defining Terms & Expectation Setting (20 mins)

1. Goals (2.5)
2. Expectation Setting (2.5)
3. Collective Definition (10)

09:50: Decolonical Approach and Critical Practices (20 mins)

1. Promises of dWeb (2.5)
2. Critical Practices: Decentralized for whom, by whom, to what end? (2.5)
3. Decolonial Approach // Positionality (5)
4. ngoc's Positionality & Critical Practices (15)
5. Ayana's Positionality & Critical Practices (15)

10:30: Compass for Decolonial Decentralization: Intro (15 mins)

1. Goal (5)
2. Framework for Decolonial Decentralization (5)
3. Toolkit for Collaborative, Collective and Cultural Work (5)

10:45: Break (10 mins)

10:55: Compass for Decolonial Decentralization: Praxis (30 mins)

1. Instruction: Designing Your Decolonial Projects (5)
2. Exercise: Groundwork + Growth Work (15)

11:25: Break (5 mins)

11:30: Review: Collective Compass for Decolonial Decentralization (20 mins)

11:50: Closing Questions & Resources

Activity Guide

Activity 1. What Does This Mean?

Goal: This activity invites students to collectively explore and reflect on the meanings of three key terms we'll be using throughout the session: decolonization, sovereignty, and resilience.

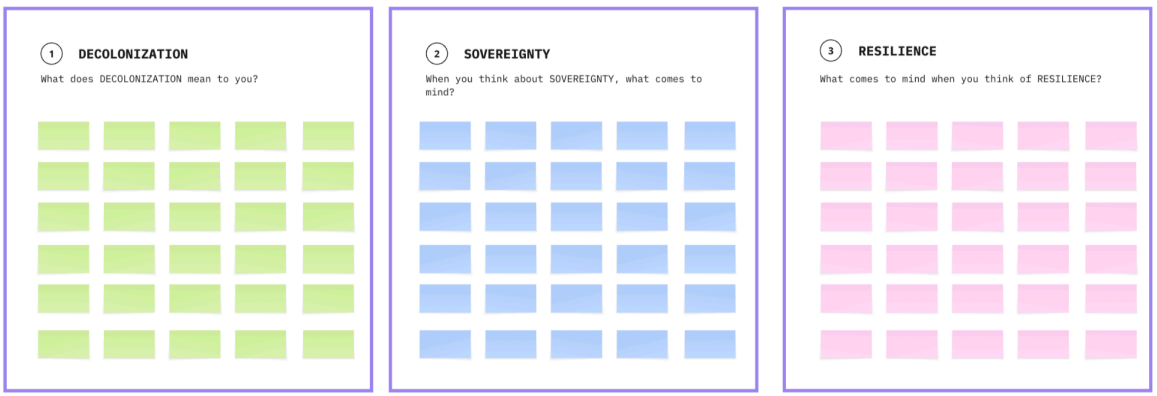
A Note on Contradiction:

We recognize that defining terms can sometimes mirror the very structures we're trying to question—language itself can be a tool of colonization through categorization and control. With that in mind, feel free to approach your definitions expansively, personally, even poetically. There's no one "right" answer.

What to do:

1. Each student will move through each board on their own and respond to the prompts using sticky notes.

2. Once everyone has added their reflections, we'll come together to read through the responses and synthesize shared (and divergent) understandings.



Activity 2a. Co-Creating a Compass for Decolonial DWeb Stewardship

Goal:

In this activity, the students will collectively develop a compass for seeding and stewarding for decolonial decentralization projects.

We will use the parallel universe of Cykofa as a decolonial framework for collectively imagining guidelines for creating and stewarding decentralized projects and technologies.

The goals are to:

1. **DISCUSS:** The goal of the discussion exercise is to bring up questions of relation, power, sovereignty, ownership and labor. Consider how data and land/community stewardship are two sides of the same coin.
2. **REFLECT**: Reflect on your positionality and relationship to decolonial practice through speculative decentralization rooted in care instead of capital.
3. **SYNTHESIZE**: To rehearse the choreographies of being an "unincorporated collective", actively practicing building consensus, asking difficult questions, rigorous play and engaging in generative conflict.

What to do:

Depending on class size, the students will be split into 3 or 6 breakout groups, each assigned different themes from the **Ground Wor**k and **Growth Work** sections of the toolkit.

In groups of 2–3, the students will first assign the following roles within each group:

- 1 x Note Taker to record insights in the reflection space
- 1 x Facilitator or Timekeeper to help guide the conversation and keep things moving

Then, they'll move on to:

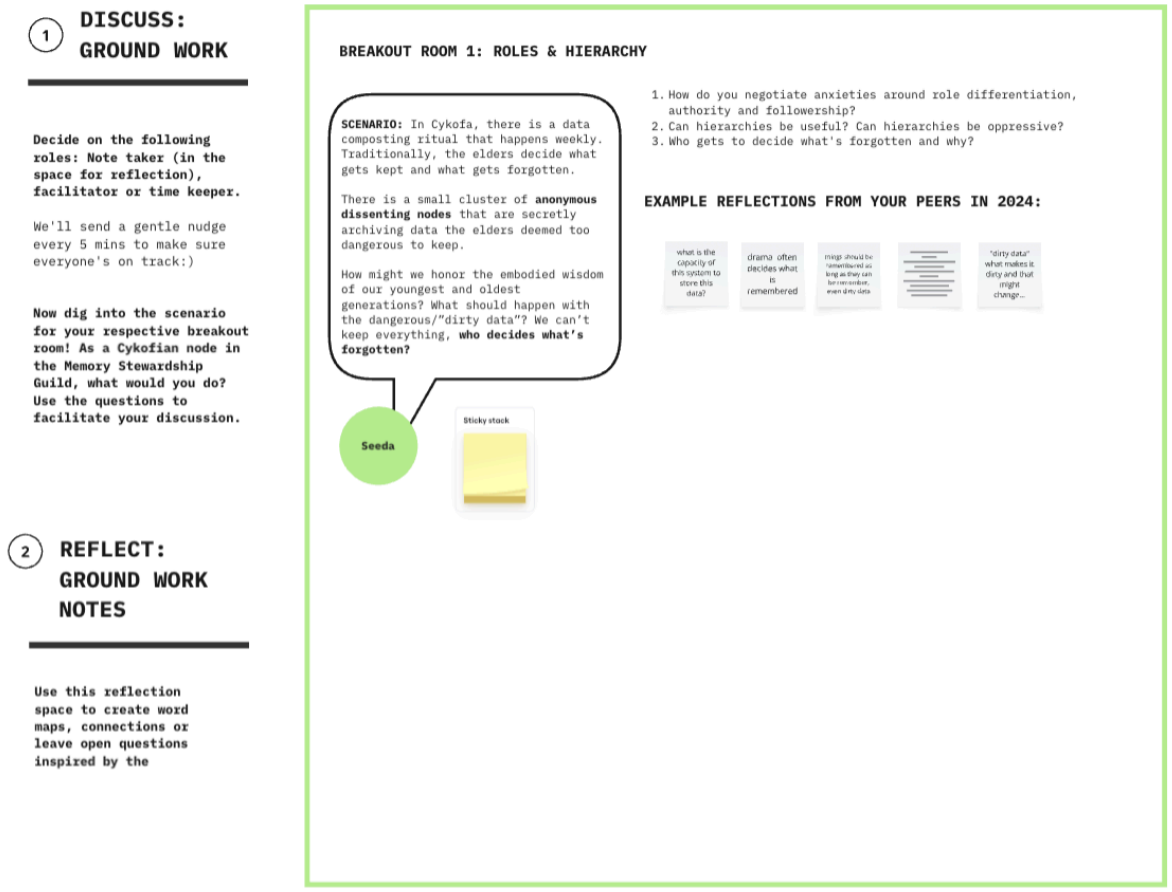
1. Discuss:
    - Step into character as a Cykofian in the Memory Stewardship Guild.
    - Use the questions provided in their toolkit to guide a scenario-based conversation.
2. Reflect:
    - Capture key ideas, tensions, and insights from the group's discussion.

- Jot them down as sticky notes or short reflections in the shared space.

3. Synthesize:
    - Use their group's reflections to draft decolonial stewardship guidelines.
    - These can be principles, provocations, questions, or speculative practices. The students are encouraged to create as many as they can!

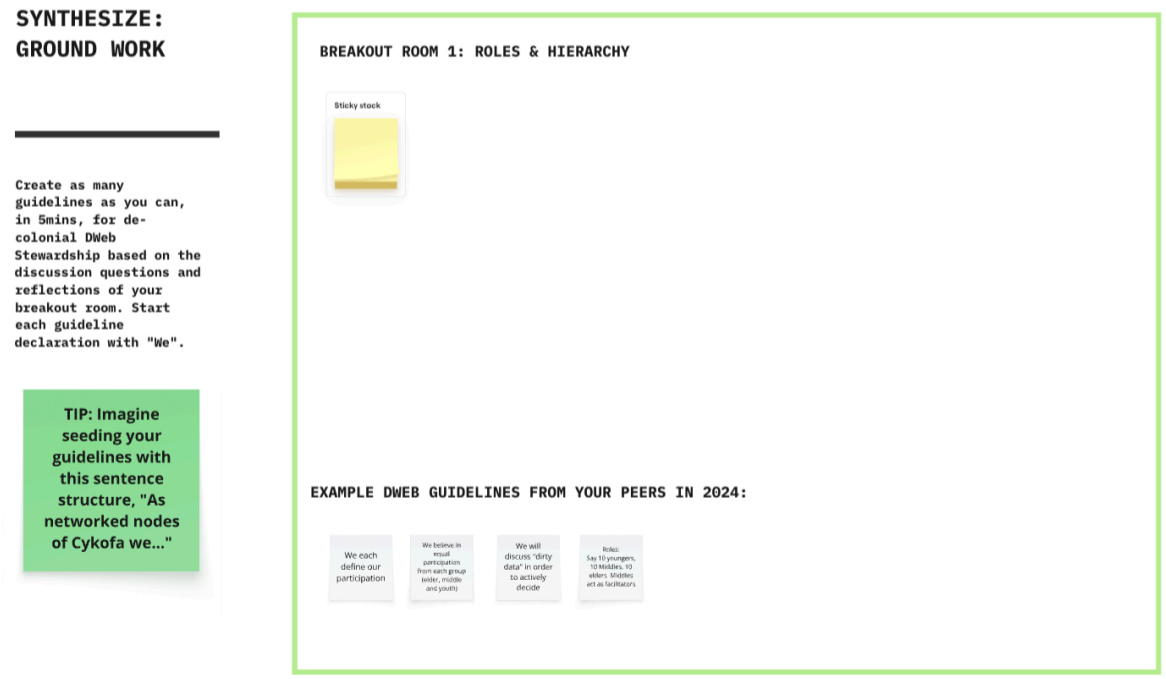
Example of Breakout Group, Scenario & Discussion Prompts:

Group 1. Roles & Hierarchy



Discussion Prompts:

1. How do you negotiate anxieties around role differentiation, authority and followership?
2. Can hierarchies be useful? Can hierarchies be oppressive?
3. Who gets to decide what's forgotten and why?



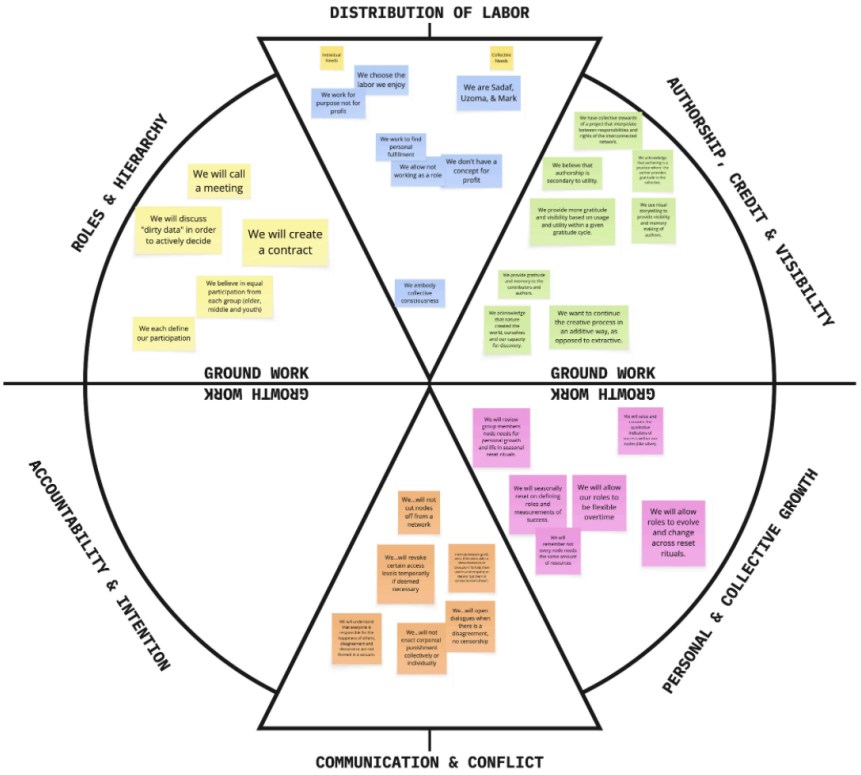
Activity 2b. Review

Goal: In this activity, we'll bring together each group's synthesized insights to build and review the collective compass for Decolonial DWeb Stewardship.

What to do:

1. During the break, the instructor(s) will collect the sticky notes from each group and organize them into the appropriate sections of the collective compass.
2. Each group will choose one person to:
    - Read their scenario aloud
    - Share reflections from the group's discussion
    - Present the co-created guidelines they developed

EXAMPLE



COLLECTIVE COMPASS FOR DECOLONIAL DWEB STEWARDSHIP