

OPEN SPACE TECHNOLOGY

Open Space allows us to ask bigger questions and address larger issues than typical meetings and organization can handle. OST may be adapted as a teaching tool for the classroom or used as a tool for conversation among your community. This format is flexible and works with 10 people or 1,000 people. The main principles are as follows:

Open Space operates under four principles and one law.

The four principles are:

- * *Whoever comes are the right people*
- * *Whatever happens is the only thing that could have happened.*
- * *When it starts is the right time*
- * *When it's over it's over*

The Law is known as the Law of ~~Free Entry~~ ^{Mobility}

If you find yourself in a situation where you are not contributing or learning, move somewhere where you can.

The four principles and the law work to create a powerful event motivated by the passion and bounded by the responsibility of the participants.



Room Arrangement:

A meeting room prepared for Open Space has a circle of chairs in the middle, letters, or numbers around the room to indicate meeting locations, a blank wall that will become the agenda and a news wall for recording and posting the results of the dialogue sessions.

The Marketplace:

The Marketplace is often a grid, with the columns being for the groups which will meet, and the rows being the timeslots. Anyone may submit topics for discussions. The topic is proposed to the whole group and it is then added to the Marketplace.

The Harvest:

The notes about what is discussed are often put on big sheets of paper, and those shared later with everyone else at the meeting.

Bumblebees:

Participants who fly from group to group cross-pollinating the discussions.

Butterflies:

Participants who sit around looking relaxed outside of group conversation. Interesting discussions emerge around them as people find them and pause to chat.

Breathing / Pulsation / Iteration:

This describes the easy movement between plenary sessions and breakouts, the iterative nature of having several rounds of breakouts, but also the realization that this new way of working might well take several iterations for a group to learn to maximize its potential.

Storytelling:

It's all stories. Stories are what we're trading in the marketplace. Stories are what we leave with. Stories literally keep us, and our work, going. When all else fails, invite some stories about what's good and right and working.

Learn more:

www.openspaceworld.org

<https://drawingchange.com/open-space-technology-and-zoom-flexible-online-spaces/>