

Open Space

Instructional Goal: discuss topics of importance to group members
This protocol was adapted from the National School Reform web site.

http://www.nsrffharmony.org/protocol/open_space_tech.html

Strengths

- Topics for discussion are generated and managed by students
- Students are responsible for their own learning and engagement
- Teacher can participate as a learner and observer with students

Note: Pre-requisite knowledge and skills: Students must be able to manage a conversation independently. Norms for productive conversations must be established prior to using *Open Space Technology*.

Directions:

- A. Explain to the group the principles of Open Space Technology.
- B. Brainstorm a list of potential topics that the group would like to discuss.
- C. Select topics and designate the location for each conversation.
- D. Provide chart paper/markers or a computer so that notes from the conversation can be recorded and shared as new people join the group.

Principles:

1. Whoever comes are the right people.
2. Whatever happens is the only thing that could have.
3. Whenever it starts is the right time to start.
4. It's over when it's over.

* The Law of Responsibility and Mobility

If you feel you are neither learning from nor contributing to a discussion, or if you feel a strong pull to another conversation or topic, you are required to get up and move to another discussion, without waiting for the group to complete the conversation.

Bees – move from group to group, cross-pollinating ideas from one discussion to another.

Butterflies – hover on the outer edges of a group.

* Don't waste time. We are the only ones who can take responsibility for knowing when our time is being wasted and deciding what to do about it.