

the JELLYFISH PROTOCOL

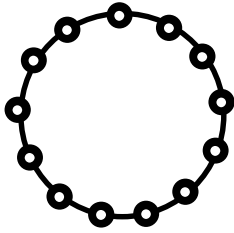
Talking Circle Method

BASIC TECHNIQUE - Version 2.0

“ The Jellyfish Protocol opens up a creative group process. It is primarily used for discussion and open sharing. With a little more work, it can also be used as a group decision-making process. ”

Talking circles are used to allow everyone in a group to be heard and witnessed. They are used in many traditional and indigenous cultures as a way of honouring all contributions from the group. Talking circles move away from modern group methods which often rely on the need for assertiveness and competition. Talking circles allow the quiet voices to be heard ...

BASIC METHOD



1. Equal time for every person
2. No interruptions, everyone listens
3. Minimum of **3** rounds
4. Speaking order moves constantly in one direction
5. Each person may speak on any topic
6. Begin and end with group silence

when it's your turn ...

YOU HOLD THE SPACE !

(no interruptions)

YOU CAN ... raise a new topic ... respond to one person ... respond to points from many people ... take your time ... use the time in silence ... pass to the next person ... suggest a group action ... ask the Facilitator for clarification about the process ... offer feedback on how the session is going ... propose other processes ... sing ... etc.



WHY “ JELLYFISH ” ?

It is said that the Jellyfish is a creature which is only partly visible to us, that its energy exists in a spectrum beyond the dimensions which we can physically perceive.

The Jellyfish is a metaphor for our own creativity and the untapped power of the collective mind.

The Jellyfish Protocol is a peaceful and respectful process for bringing this group creativity into being.

ADVANTAGES OF THE JELLYFISH Suitable for any group size • Is peaceful and orderly and simple to grasp • Quickly identifies group enthusiasms and dynamics • Balances the need for talking and listening • Allows time for each person to tune into their own feelings and passion • Can be used as a pre-cursor to other decision-making or meeting processes

CHALLENGES It requires group agreement and commitment to embark on this method • Requires patience to wait your turn • Requires discipline not to interject or interrupt the circular flow • A challenge to maintain total silence when you do not have the talking stick • Takes time to reach decisions or consensus (... if you want to) • Letting go of ego

Maintain the circular flow



MINIMUM OF 3 ROUNDS:

Open and close with group silence.
Suggested structure of rounds :

FIRST : Personal introductions, reason for coming, topics of interest

MIDDLE : OPEN DISCUSSION

FINAL : Feedback on value of session. Suggestions for other group process

FACILITATOR'S ROLE :

• Facilitator may be a participant or non-participant in discussions • Ensure process is fully explained and agreed • Establish time limits suitable to group size (optional) e.g. 3-6 minutes per person • Establish initial number of rounds • Establish use of 'Talking Stick' (or object) • Act as timekeeper (or allocate role) • Establish signals for "time warning" and "breach of protocol" • Formally open / close session • Assess need for more rounds during session (if process previously agreed) • Respond briefly to questions about Protocol (from speaker only) if needed in session

OTHER THINGS:

- Late-comers who join circle (if previously agreed) wait their turn. Facilitator then explains state of process.
- If a break in the meeting is required, it is declared by the Facilitator and resumed at the same place in the circle. (Group silence used before and after the break)
- Circle direction optional

For further copies, and to share your suggestions and experience using “The Jellyfish Protocol” please visit :

www.beam.to/jellyfish