

Make a Mind Map

Mind mapping can be used for any purpose, from brainstorming to problem solving and decision-making. It can be done in as little as 15-20 minutes, followed by as much conversation as you have time for: Larger groups may need 45 minutes.

We use a sheet of paper 6 feet high and 12 feet long (about 2-4 meters) if there is enough wall space. In the centre of the sheet we put the meeting topic and circle it. Then we have people brainstorm trends in society that affect their topic now (for example). We define a trend as a direction of change, from more to less, from smaller to greater and so forth. (You could as easily note causes, elements, characteristics, needs stakeholders, symptoms- just about anything).

Each new item is written on a new line coming off the circle or tied to an existing line. The person who names the trend indicates where it goes on the map. All trends are valid- that is, legitimate to put on the map. We ask for concrete examples so that every person will know what the speaker is thinking. If somebody says, "health care is getting worse," we ask for an example. "I had to wait 4 hours with my child in the emergency room last week." Somebody else may say, "I think health care is getting better: I had a heart bypass that saved my life." Both statements are legitimate, and both go on the map.

The purpose of this activity is to develop a view of the world that includes all perceptions. All conversations that follow will be in relation to the same world-the one that includes every trend on the map.

Mindmap

- All ideas are valid
- Person who names issue says where it goes
- Opposing trends are O.K.
- Give concrete examples

Source:

Don't just do something, stand there! Ten principles for leading meetings that matter.
Marvin Weisbord and Sandra Janoff, 2007