

Sample Deliberative Techniques

This list was derived from data available at the National Coalition for Dialogue and Deliberation website (www.ncdd.org)

National Issues Forums **National Issues Forum** – www.nifi.org

NIF is a nationwide network of educational and community organizations that deliberate about national public issues. NIF publishes deliberation guides on such topics as "Racial and Ethnic Tensions: What Should We Do?", "Money and Politics: Who Owns Democracy?" and "Violent Kids: Can We Change The Trend?"

21st Century Town Meeting **AmericaSpeaks** - www.americaspeaks.org

Promoting the founding belief that every citizen has a right to impact the decisions of government, AmericaSpeaks serves as a neutral convener of large-scale public participation forums. Through close consultation with leaders, citizens, the media and others, AmericaSpeaks designs and facilitates deliberative meetings for 500 to 5,000 participants. Its partners have included regional planning groups, local, state, and national government bodies, and national organizations. Issues have ranged from Social Security reform to redevelopment of ground zero in New York.

Appreciative Inquiry **Appreciative Inquiry Commons** - www.appreciativeinquiry.cwru.edu

'AI Commons' is devoted to the sharing of academic resources and practical tools on Appreciative Inquiry and the rapidly growing discipline of positive change. The site is hosted by Case Western Reserve University's Weatherhead School of Management. Appreciative Inquiry is the coevolutionary search for the best in people, their organizations and the relevant world around them.

Bohmian Dialogue **Dialogue: A Proposal** - www.infed.org/archives/e-texts/bohm_dialogue.htm

David Bohm was a well-respected contemporary physicist whose contributions to science and philosophy include a kind of free-form, sustained dialogue. Bohm's introduction to dialogue is featured on this website.

Citizen Choicework **Public Agenda** – www.publicagenda.org

Founded in 1975 by social scientist Daniel Yankelovich and former Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, Public Agenda prepares educational materials that help explain policy to the public in a balanced and easily understood way. Citizens use this information to weigh various choices and make educated decisions. Public Agenda has addressed such issues as school and health care reform, national security, AIDS, crime, economic competitiveness and the environment.

Citizens Juries **The Jefferson Center** - www.jefferson-center.org

Since 1974, the Jefferson Center has conducted Citizen Juries at the local, state and national levels. In a Citizens Jury, a randomly selected, demographically representative panel of citizens, which serve as a microcosm of the public, meet to carefully examine an issue of public significance. At the end of their moderated hearings, the members present their recommendations to the public. The Citizens Jury process is a comprehensive tool that allows decision makers to hear thoughtful citizen input. Juries have addressed topics including national health care reform, budget priorities, environmental issues and local school district facility needs.

Consensus Conference **Resource on the CII website** - www.co-intelligence.org/P-DanishTechPanels.html

The Danish Board of Technology has used Consensus Conferences more than any other entity, in order to ensure that citizens of Denmark have a say in highly technical government decisions. There is no single organization or entity promoting this process, but this page on the website of the Co-Intelligence Institute provides a great overview and lists of resources for learning more.

Conversation Café **Conversation Café** – www.conversationcafe.org

Vicki Robin, a pioneer in the voluntary simplicity movement, came up with the idea of using the "conversation café" model in attempts to take her ideas of simpler living to a higher level. Her organization has more than 60 trained café hosts and has spread internationally after a tremendous start in Seattle.

Deliberative Polling **The Center for Deliberative Democracy** - <http://cdd.stanford.edu/>

Housed in the Department of Communication at Stanford University and established in 2003, the Center for Deliberative Democracy is devoted to research about democracy and public opinion obtained through Deliberative Polling. Developed by Professor James Fishkin, Deliberative Polling is a technique which combines deliberation in small group discussions with scientific random sampling to provide public consultation for public policy and for electoral issues.

Future Search Future Search Network – www.futuresearch.net

The Future Search Network initiates future search conferences, innovative planning conferences used world-wide by hundreds of communities and organizations. The conferences meet two goals at the same time: helping large diverse groups discover values, purposes and projects they hold in common; and enabling people to create a desired future together and start implementing right away.

Intergroup Dialogue IDEA Center - <http://depts.washington.edu/sswwweb/idea/>

The Intergroup Dialogue, Education and Action (IDEA) Center at the University of Washington School of Social Work was started in November 1996 as a response to the urgent challenges for social work educators to prepare competent practitioners who can work with an increasingly diverse clientele and embrace the profession's social justice mission. These challenges call for changes not only in the content of future practitioners' knowledge, but also in classroom pedagogies that can enhance their learning experiences while developing competencies to work in a multicultural society. The mission of the Institute has now expanded to supporting campus and community efforts geared toward addressing issues of oppression, empowerment, and alliance building for social justice.

The Program on Intergroup Relations (IGR) - www.umich.edu/~igr/

IGR is a social justice education program at the University of Michigan which works proactively to promote understanding of intergroup relations throughout the student community. It assists students as they explore models of intergroup understanding and cooperation while acknowledging differences between and within groups. A number of other universities have used IGR as a model for developing similar programs. On this site you will find information on academic and co-curricular initiatives, program history and philosophy, and resources related to social justice education.

Open Space Technology Open Space Institute - U.S. – www.openspaceworld.org

The Open Space Institute - US is one of many Open Space Institutes worldwide, all born and raised by the efforts of volunteer members. The Institute is an inclusive learning community that provides access to resources on Open Space and connects individuals and groups to inform, inspire, mentor, and sustain each other in opening and holding space. Open Space Technology is one way to enable all kinds of people, in any kind of organization, to create inspired, self-organized meetings and events. In Open Space meetings, events and organizations, participants create and manage their own agenda of parallel working sessions around a central theme of strategic importance.

Public Conversations Project dialogue Public Conversations Project – www.publicconversations.org

In addition to their groundbreaking grassroots dialogue work, PCP provides trainings, presentations, and workshops on such things as the power of dialogue, inquiry as intervention, and the architecture of dialogue. PCP's website offers a variety of great tools and downloadable resources to help you organize and facilitate a dialogue.

Study Circles Study Circles Resource Center – www.studycircles.org

SCRC promotes and supports study circles (small-group, democratic, peer-led deliberative dialogues on important social and political issues). Their website provides downloadable copies of many of their top-notch dialogue guides and other resources.

Wisdom Circle Wisdom Circles - www.wisdomcircle.org

Cindy Spring and Charles Garfield created this website to provide further support and resources to readers of their 1998 book "Wisdom Circles: A Guide to Self Discovery and Community Building in Small Groups." According to their website, they offer the wisdom circle format to any person or organization, free of charge.

World Café World Café - www.theworldcafe.com

Juanita Brown and David Isaacs from Whole Systems Associates use the model of the café setting to create a warm, inviting environment in which people can converse. Participants gather informally at small tables and are encouraged to map out the ideas generated from conversation onto the paper table cloths covering the tables.