

Dialogue by putting something in the middle

ccl-explorer.org/dialogue-by-putting-something-in-the-middle/

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Dialogue is a reflective conversation engaging the multiple perspectives of a number of people to explore assumptions and create new meaning. Create dialogue by putting objects in the middle of a conversation. Meaning becomes projected onto the object. Images work very well. You can use photos, art, stories, Visual Explorer and other Explorer tools, mementos, videos, graphics, and so on.

When people get good at this, they don't need a physical object—they can put a topic (a challenge, a problem, an idea) in the middle.

As the Star Model graphic illustrates, multiple layers of the topic are explored from many angles (multiple perspectives).

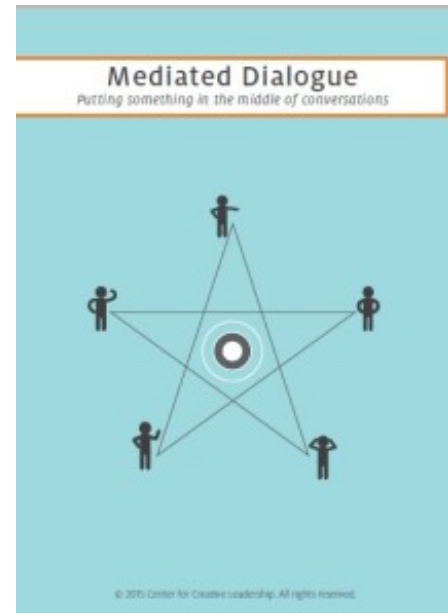
Try This

Visual ExplorerTM supports dialogue by using images as a source of visual metaphors.

1. Each person selects images in relation to a focal question.
2. Describe the image itself.
3. Say what you think the image means from your perspective, in relation to the focal question.
4. Each person in the dialogue then describes and interprets the image from their own perspective.
5. What new meaning can you build from all the images?

Palus, C. J., & McGuire, J.B. (2015). Mediated dialogue in action research. In H. Bradbury (Ed.) *The SAGE handbook of action research, 3rd Edition* Thousand Oaks, California: SAGE Publications. 691-699.

Palus, C.J., & Drath, W.H. (2001). Putting something in the middle: An approach to dialogue. *Reflections*. 3(2), 28-39.



Mediated Dialogue

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