

Summer Seminar '09
Peer to Peer Team Preparation Procedure



Descriptive Consultancy Protocol

Focus: Clarifying the issue to be addressed.

Unique Elements: Before group brainstorming, responders share what they heard, as a way to clarify how well the Inquiry Question was articulated. This helps center the whole group on a mutually understood line of inquiry.

Limitations: Presenting Team is asked to remain silent while responders brainstorm, as a way to encourage them to think "outside the box."

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| 10 minutes | Problem Presentation
Presenting group provides Inquiry Question and only the most vital elements of the context/circumstances surrounding the problem. |
| 5 - 10 mins | Clarifying Questions
Responders ask questions only if they need more information to gain a clearer understanding of the problem being addressed. This could include basic information, such as definition of key terms, or information related to the project's history. |
| 15 Minutes | Reflecting Back
While presenting team is silent, the responders take turns articulating what they heard in the description of the problem. They might also mention what they did not hear. This step is NOT about solving the problem, but exploring the full dimensions of the problem and if the responders understand the problem's nuances. |
| 10 Minutes | Response by Presenters
Presenting team addresses any concerns that the responders offered in the previous step. This might be a confirmation or a deeper clarification. |
| 15 Minutes | Group Brainstorming
Again, the presenting team is asked to remain silent as the responders brainstorm possible solutions. It's recommended responders phrase their ideas in the form of a question, like "Would it be possible to.. ?" or "What might happen if.. ?" |
| 20 Minutes | Second Response by Presenters
The Presenting team offers how they are thinking differently about the problem. The Presenters do not need to address all of the Responders questions from the previous section. The Presenters may choose to open the dialogue to Responders for discussion. |
| 10 Minutes | Debrief
All participants discuss their roles in the protocol and what they have learned from the process. |