



Open Space Technology

Overview

In Open Space Technology (OST) meetings, participants create and manage their own agenda of parallel working sessions around a central theme of strategic importance. Open Space Technology (OST) meetings begin with a broad invitation to work on something (big) that matters. OST is a way to tailor the conversation to the current audience. Participants come together, sitting in a circle and the program opens with an agenda setting exercise. Then the group self-organizes into smaller discussion groups.

The Process

Round 1 Agenda Setting (with a facilitator) - 20 minutes

Step 1: In the large group generate sub-topics for discussion in smaller groups related to the theme. The facilitator will write the sub-topics on the paper.

Step 2: Once subtopics are identified, vote on your top four subtopics.

Step 3: Sub-topics for discussion are determined, discussion leaders for each subtopic are identified.

Step 4: Discussion leaders select a table, write the subtopic on the provided placard, welcomes people to the discussion, and takes notes.

Transition - 5 minutes

Move to a sub-topic you would like to discuss. Feel free to move to another theme's sub-topic if none of the sub-topics in the theme interest you.

Round 2 Discussion - 15 minutes

Discussion - leader writes notes on the big sheet of paper provided on the table.

Transition- 5 minutes

Feel free to move to another discussion table (you can move to a whole different theme if you like)

Round 3 Discussion - 15 minutes

Discussion - leader writes notes on the big sheet of paper provided on the table.

Wrap-up - 10 minutes

Each discussion leader will:

1. Identify the sub-topic
2. Identify ONE salient topic to share (you will have 30 seconds). Keep it brief.